

Gorbachov in flying visit to Thatcher

First UK trip by Soviet leader since Khrushchev

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov is to make the first visit to Britain by a General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party for 31 years. He is to pay a flying visit to see the Prime Minister on December 7, on his way to the historic summit in Washington to sign the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear weapons from Europe.

They will immediately begin talks about the next stage of the disarmament process, with Mrs Thatcher setting out the areas where she thinks further progress can be made.

Mrs Thatcher, for whom the visit is a big personal boost, gave the news to surprised

MPs soon after receiving confirmation from the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Leonid Zamiatin.

He called at Downing Street to tell Mrs Thatcher that Mr Gorbachov would be coming. He is expected to be in London for three or four hours, although detailed arrangements for the talks, and their location, have yet to be fixed. He will be accompanied by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Foreign Minister.

The visit is being seen as another strong indication of the good relations established between Mrs Thatcher and the

Prime Minister felt unwell during a reception for the Diplomatic Corps at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday night and left early, Downing Street confirmed yesterday. Mrs Thatcher, who is 62, was said to have felt a little light-headed in a very hot and smoky room.

She sat down and had a glass of water and left the reception 20 minutes early after being seen by one of the diplomats present who was also a doctor.

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Soviet leader. They got on particularly well during Mrs Thatcher's visit to Moscow last April, and it will be regarded as recognition of her role in getting the East-West arms initiative off the ground, and maintaining their momentum.

Mrs Thatcher last saw President Reagan in Washington in July at a time when the Soviet-US talks seemed to be hitting trouble. There were suggestions that the Soviet Union was playing for concessions because of the weakening of the President's authority over the Iran-Contra scandal.

And, again backing Mr Gorbachov's "glasnost" approach, she said: "We firmly support the bold and courageous changes being made in the Soviet Union and wish them well."

She added: "I do hope Mr Gorbachov will accept my invitation for a longer stay in this country."

It will be Mr Gorbachov's second visit to Britain. He first came when a senior member of the Politburo in 1984.

● MOSCOW: Mr Gorbachov is expected to extend his stay in the United States by one or two days if he and President Reagan are near a breakthrough on a further treaty cutting superpower strategic nuclear arsenals by 50 per

Mrs Thatcher, on her return to London, sent a message to Mr Gorbachov asking him to speed the progress of the talks.

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov will meet at a location as convenient as possible to the airport where he lands. The talks are unlikely to take place in Downing Street, or anywhere in central London.

The Prime Minister issued an invitation to Mr Gorbachov to visit Britain during her April trip, and she told MPs yesterday that she hoped he would be able to come for a longer visit later.

A specific invitation to him to stop over on his way to Washington had been issued by Mrs Thatcher in the last few days.

Mrs Thatcher will offer her congratulations on the successful outcome of the intermediate-range talks, and encourage him on his reform efforts in the Soviet Union.

But she wants immediately to begin the follow-up talks on efforts to obtain a ban on chemical weapons, reduction in the imbalance of con-

ventional weapons, and a cut of 50 per cent in the level of strategic weapons held by the superpowers.

Ever since the Reykjavik summit between Mr Gorbachov and Mr Reagan last year, Mrs Thatcher and other European leaders have been anxious to ensure that European interests as a whole are taken account of in any superpower deal.

There was a fear among some leaders then that the superpowers were in danger of reaching an agreement over the heads of the Europeans.

It will be the first visit by the head of the Soviet Communist Party since 1956, when Mr Nikita Khrushchev came on an eventful trip with Mr Nikolai Bulganin, the then Soviet Prime Minister. Mr Alexei Kosygin visited as the Soviet Prime Minister in 1967.

In the Commons yesterday Mrs Thatcher said the intermediate weapons treaty vindicated the strong defence policies of Britain and Nato.

Officials said the Soviet flight plan to Greenham Common would be routed carefully to avoid sensitive areas. British officials will also be able to veto any special equipment the Soviet team may bring and have it sent back. If the Soviet officials want to see Greenham Common or Molesworth, they will file a flight plan with Whitehall. If they are travelling from Moscow, the British Government will have about four hours in which to arrange the visit and fix the necessary transport and hotel accommodation.

But, as officials said yesterday, if the Soviet team decides to fly in from another European base country, say The Netherlands, the notice period will be considerably shorter. In Britain's case, the 10 Soviet inspectors will always fly into Greenham Common, which has a full-length runway.

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cent, a senior Soviet official said yesterday (a correspondent writes).

Concerning his short stay in London en route to the summit, diplomatic sources said it was "an opportunity for an exchange of views that should not be missed".

After her visit to the Soviet Union last year, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov appeared to form a close professional and personal relationship unique between a Western leader and a communist ruler.

Britain can vet missile monitors

By Michael Evans and Andrew McEwen

The British Government will have the right to vet — and reject — any Soviet inspectors included on a list of 200 names to be drawn up by Moscow under the verification proceedings of the intermediate nuclear forces treaty now agreed between the US and the Soviet Union.

The verification clauses of the treaty will give the Soviet Union access to two of the most sensitive bases in Britain, Greenham Common in Berkshire and Molesworth in Cambridgeshire. The names will be studied carefully by the Security Service, MI5, and the Ministry of Defence to spot any known senior members of the KGB. It is held that this right to vet will be given to all the basing countries, independently of the US.

Britain and the Soviet Union are preparing a ceremonial exchange of notes which will specify tight limits

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on the freedom Soviet officials will enjoy when they inspect cruise missile sites.

The notes, together with an "inspection protocol", contain some surprising concessions but in general limit the Soviet side more tightly than it had wished. They say they will be subject to the enforcement of British laws and regulations. Whitehall sources said that Moscow did not want this phrase included, and held out for looser wording.

But at a meeting in Washington last Friday between US officials and representatives of the five basing countries, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, was pressed to reject a more vague Soviet draft for the exchange of notes. Britain was determined to prevent Soviet officials roaming at will.

Once the list of inspectors is approved, Britain and the other basing countries will supply the personnel with visas so they can arrive at short notice without having to go through normal immigration procedures. Under the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty details, more of which were revealed by diplomatic sources yesterday, the Soviet and US sides will be allowed to select a maximum of 10 inspectors from the pool of 200 vetted and approved officials to visit each of the declared INF missile bases — that is, a total of 20 in Britain at any one time.

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Baby technique is a first for the NHS



Mrs Elizabeth Farnworth, her husband David and their daughter Lucy, who is the first baby to be born in a National Health Service hospital using a technique known as GIFT

New hope for the childless

By Geoff King

As the new regulations were announced yesterday, a woman aged 33 was celebrating after becoming the first National Health Service patient to give birth using a pioneering treatment known as GIFT — Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer.

Mrs Elizabeth Farnworth gave birth to a 5 lb 12 oz girl, Lucy, by Caesarian section at Billinge Hospital near Wigan, Greater Manchester, on Wednesday.

Mrs Farnworth and her husband David, of Orrell, near Wigan, had been trying to have a baby for nine years.

The technique previously available only privately, would be permissible but would require a statutory licence under the new rules.

It is quicker, cheaper and said to be more natural than test-tube baby methods.

Instead of being removed for two days and fertilized in a laboratory, five ripe eggs were taken from Mrs Farnworth's ovaries and transferred immediately to the fallopian tubes. They were then briefly removed, fertilized, and returned.

The low-cost version of the technique has been developed on the NHS by Mr Chris Chandler, a consultant gynaecologist, and Dr Nigel Bickerton, a research registrar, at Billinge Hospital.

Mr Chandler said that five more GIFT babies are due.

Free vote on embryo research

By Jill Sherman and Pearce Wright

The Government is proposing strict legal controls over test-tube baby clinics and a ban on controversial research, such as genetic engineering, using human embryos. But it has left the main decision over whether embryo research should be permitted at all to a free parliamentary vote.

Under recommendations in a White Paper published yesterday, it will be a criminal offence to create, use or store a human embryo outside the body without a permit from a new Statutory Licensing Authority. It will be a criminal offence to do research involving genetic manipulation of an embryo, try to clone two or more identical humans, or transfer human embryos to other animals.

The document, a framework for forthcoming legislation on infertility and embryo research, does make provision for a limited amount of research, under one of two proposals in the document.

The Government has proposed that two alternative draft clauses should be inserted into the forthcoming Bill and that a decision to allow research on embryos up to 14 days old should be left to a free vote in Parliament when the Bill is introduced.

The first clause, which prohibits research, says that any procedures on a human embryo, other than those aimed at preparing an embryo for transfer to the uterus of a woman, should be a criminal offence.

Announcing the proposals, Mr Tony Newton, the Health Minister, said that the aim was to make future legislation flexible enough "to meet the concerns people have about the new reproductive technologies, while recognizing the benefits they can bring".

In vitro fertilization experts yesterday welcomed the Government's decision to set up a Statutory Licensing Authority, to monitor and control all treatment and research.

Professor Robert Winston, head of the infertility clinic at Hammersmith Hospital, West London, said that the paper rightly reflected deep concerns that some people had over research. "However, I am concerned that people should be aware that embryologists and research workers are on the brink of an enormous breakthrough in the prevention of hereditary and genetic diseases."

The anti-abortion pressure group, Life, applauded the fact that the Government had left to a free vote the alternative clauses, one prohibiting any research and the other allowing a limited degree of research on embryos.

However, Life suggested plans for the Statutory Licensing Authority were flawed. Its income would depend on revenues from its licensing activities, raising questions about the authority's neutrality.

● A Bill covering the emotional minefield of test-tube babies and embryo research is scheduled to be introduced by the Government in the next parliamentary session (Our Political Staff writes).

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, promised a debate "as soon as is convenient" yesterday, when it was asked for by Mr Neil Kinnock, and the House of Lords will also debate the issue before next summer.

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The second clause permits research, if part of a project licensed by the new Statutory Licensing Authority.

Under this proposal, research on human embryos would be allowed, if it was aimed at advances in diagnostic or therapeutic techniques or in fertility control.

If Parliament votes for this limited research to go ahead, the Government has followed recommendations by the Warnock Committee that it should be restricted to those embryos under 14 days old.

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Sandys dies aged 79

Lord Duncan-Sandys, one of the members of Churchill's wartime Cabinet, died at his Westminster home yesterday, aged 79.

He became an MP, as Mr Duncan Sandys, in 1935, the year he married Churchill's daughter, Diana.

After losing his seat in 1945, he returned as Minister of Supply in 1951 and served in Conservative governments and shadow cabinets until 1966.

He played a big part in the earlier attempts to get Britain into the European Community.

Mrs Thatcher was reported last night to be "very sad" at his death.

Obituary, page 18

Baby move

The condition of David Barber, aged seven weeks, who underwent a hole in the heart operation on Wednesday after five postponements, deteriorated slightly yesterday. The baby, who had been breathing without aid, was put on a ventilator at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

IN PART 2

BT pays up

British Telecom is paying a higher interim dividend after pretax profits rose 11.3 per cent to £1.12 billion. The shares fell 9p. Page 25

TIMES FOCUS

The flourishing state of Greek Cyprus, despite the Turkish occupation in the north of the island, is described in a Special Report. Pages 37-40

Maxwell fury

Robert Maxwell, the publisher, attacked the Football League's management committee for not backing his takeover of Watford. Page 48

Portfolio

● There is £8,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold competition today because there were no winners yesterday. ● Portfolio list, page 35.

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Six athletes declined drug tests

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Some of the most famous names in athletics, including Fatima Whitbread, Linford Christie and Steve Ovett, are among the 131 competitors who have passed random drug tests over the last 18 months. But six athletes, who have retired from the sport, declined to be tested.

One of them, Karen Hough, the United Kingdom junior

record holder for the javelin, told The Times last night that although she had never taken drugs herself some athletes were using masking drugs, like probenecid, which eliminate the presence of anabolic steroids and other drugs in the urine sample.

The other five who declined to be tested are Chris Black, a Commonwealth Games med-

al winner and now a professional; Diane Royle, the Scottish javelin thrower; Graham Williamson, the middle-distance runner; Louise Gittens, an Olympic high jumper; and Jayne Andrews, an international sprinter.

The British Amateur Athletic Board introduced the random drug-testing 18 months ago. Report, Page 47

Firearms Act silences yacht club starting cannon

By Alan Hamilton

Members of the Little Ship yacht club on the Blackwater estuary at Hythe Quay near Maldon in Essex have been startled by a police raid on their premises to seize a dangerous firearm.

The 15in cast-iron cannon, usually kept above the piano in the club bar, has never been employed for anything more offensive than providing a starting signal for club races. But Essex police, in a burst of zeal after the Hungerford shooting, have told the club they cannot have it back unless they lock it up in a steel box and pay £33 for a firearms certificate.

Mounted on a 9in high trolley and weighing more than 10lb, the cannon

has to be loaded with black powder and wadding and its trigger pulled with a piece of string to provide the boom for starting a race.

Mr Norrie Tomlinson, the club commodore, said yesterday: "The police are way over the top; there is no sense to it. I realize they are worried about guns being used in crimes, but anyone trying to hold up a bank with a starting cannon under his arm would look daft."

Mr Warren Panther, another club member, said: "There are guns like this in yachting clubs all over the country, but as far as we can see no one else has been told they need a firearm certificate. The only way to get it back is to get a box and pay up."

Mr Panther said that as far as he was aware the club had owned the cannon for about 30 years. He said it was bought simply as a starting cannon made specifically for starting races. "Whether or not it could fire any sort of projectile I really could not say. It merely makes a loud bang and a lot of smoke comes out."

Inspector Roy Giddings of Essex police, who took possession of the cannon, said he had to act to prevent the club from breaking the law. He hoped it would make other clubs with such weapons realize that they were breaking the law.

At the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, Isle of Wight, however, the surprise was that the Little Ship Club

had been an unlicensed possessor of a firearm for so long.

The RYS has a whole arsenal of starting cannon: four small ones firing 10-bore blank cartridges each have a firearms certificate and are kept in a secure place, and the 22 larger cannon on the seafloor, used for saluting the Queen with black powder and wadding when she visits Cowes Week, all have a shotgun certificate.

Major R.P. Rising, the RYS secretary, said yesterday: "All our cannon are inspected regularly by the police, and I am certain that most yacht clubs in the country are supervised equally closely."

Flood alerts for Venice, Florence

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Florence and Venice were put on flood alert yesterday as heavy rains threatened the city centres and art treasures.

In Florence, the waters of the Arno were just inches short of the emergency level, reviving fears of the 1966 deluge when much of ancient Florence, including the Santa Croce church and convent, were wrecked by flood water.

Yesterday, Cimabue's great Crucifix was moved 16 ft higher within Santa Croce church. Curators are moving other masterpieces throughout Florence to the top floors of buildings.

Soldiers have been delivering sandbags to art galleries, and buses have been requisitioned to transport Florentines from the wharf-side of the Arno to higher levels. Armoured security vans are ready to carry art treasures to safety.

On Tuesday the Prefecture warned Florentines not to

enter the centre of the city, but most people ignored the call. The storm, the first of the winter, has highlighted how little has been done since the flood damage of 1966.

Venetians were using boats to cross St Mark's Square which was under eight inches of water. A strong wind on Tuesday forced up the tide levels and water poured into houses and street-level shops.

On the Venetian island of Burano, 75 per cent of houses are flood damaged. The flooding has revived debate about the future of the sinking city.

"It is ridiculous that this city should be imperilled whenever a storm pushes the tides to danger level," commented one lobbyist for urgent preservation measures.

● Tiber rising: Torrential rains pounded Rome yesterday, temporarily shutting the airport (AP reports). The Tiber's level rose, while floods trapped children at a school.

Christmas Special

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Save time in the kitchen this Christmas when you buy a Braun UK12 (£51.99) or UK22 (£69.95) Food Processor — and we'll give you a free wall clock into the bargain. They're just part of our extensive new range of kitchen electricals for Christmas available at your nearest Habitat.

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Reporting curbs on the Spycatcher case are lifted by judge

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The British media won its first significant breakthrough yesterday in the legal fight to publish the allegations of the former MI5 officer, Mr Peter Wright, when a High Court judge ordered the lifting of reporting restrictions on the evidence of Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet.

In the face of strong protests by Mr Robert Alexander, QC, counsel for the Attorney General, Mr Justice Scott ruled that in the public interest "in the administration of justice" the extensive restrictions in force since the case started on Monday should be removed.

The ruling means that for the first time, newspapers are free — without risk of legal proceedings — to report the allegations made by Mr Wright in his memoirs, *Spycatcher*, now widely available throughout the world, providing they are referred to in court.

The surprise move by the judge came on the fourth day of the Government's case to have a temporary ban on publication of *Spycatcher* material made permanent. It is being resisted by *The Guardian*, *The Observer* and *The Sunday Times*.

Opposing the lifting of

restrictions, Mr Alexander said it would be "quite wrong to present yet another route by which there could be widespread publication given to Mr Wright's allegations, before we know whether the Attorney General is correct in the claim (for a permanent ban) he makes before this court".

It would enable the press to report every *Spycatcher* allegation repeated in court and to highlight them; the very thing the Attorney General was seeking to prevent, he said.

But the judge said he had to strike a balance between the interest of national security on one hand, and on the other "the public interest in the administration of justice in connection with a case being heard in open court of great constitutional interest, and perhaps importance, to the public at large".

That was not the balance he would have to strike at the end of the trial when deciding whether newspapers should be free to publish the *Spycatcher* allegations generally, he said.

He was not yet in a position to do that but he was able to decide whether there was any security interest to warrant restrictions on a fair and accurate report of what was

happening in court and, he said, "I have come to the conclusion there is not".

Unlike the House of Lords in July, which extended the ban on *Spycatcher* to the Australian court proceedings, the judge had heard Sir Robert's evidence.

Second, the Home Secretary had signed a certificate of public interest immunity which had restricted the questioning of Sir Robert by counsel for the newspapers.

Third, the injunction imposed on publishing *Spycatcher* material, which was upheld by the House of Lords, was still in force (although it did not extend to British court reports), and finally, counsel had avoided reading out any substantial passages from the book. The allegations were only mentioned in substance.

The judge is, however, to review reporting restrictions on a daily basis and evidence from other witnesses may be subject to further bans.

When the hearing resumed of the Government's case for a permanent ban against *Spycatcher*, Sir Robert, under cross-examination by Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for *The Sunday Times*, said the Government was actively taking steps to "plug the American loophole" where there has been widespread publication.

He said the Government was considering urgently what steps it could take to deal with what it considered to be a "major problem" — the publication of the book in the United States.

But he admitted that if the Government failed in its proceedings in the United Kingdom, then the need to proceed in the US would be "much the less".

Mr Lester said that while the American route was open, the real problem of deterring future Mr Wrights remained. "You agree the problem is very urgent; it has been urgent ever since Peter Wright got away with it in the United States, because the Government is wide open to similar episodes at any time, and threats — in your case — to the national interest," Mr Lester added.

If the Government believed the damage caused by publication of Mr Wright's book in the US was that great, it would already have taken steps to close that route, he added.

Return to Carnaby Street



Quant in Carnaby Street. There is potent imagery in those two words, of dolly birds in mini skirts and mod in high-buttoned Beatle suits that still attests to the strength of their combined names as a fashion force today (Liz Smith writes). A fascinating and daring experiment in selling clothes was launched yesterday when Mary Quant, the wizard who conjured up the mini and launched London as a fashion capital, opened her latest emporium of larky clothes and accessories in that open air theatre of the swinging sixties, Carnaby Street.

Carnaby Street has lately been a murky bazaar strung with Union Jack T-shirts and studded leather wrist bands and jackets. Mary Quant, has concentrated on cosmetics and tights. She staked out the King's Road as her own fashion territory back in the sixties, and never ventured into the West End, yesterday Mary Quant, mini-skirted and high-heeled as elegantly as ever, was confident that she will lead the fashionable back into Carnaby Street.

Photograph: Chris Harris

Dr Higgs 'was asked to slow abuse findings'

By Peter Davenport

The doctor who pioneered the medical technique used by the two consultants in Cleveland to diagnose sexual abuse in children said yesterday the issue had been handled wrongly.

Dr Jane Wynne was so concerned at the numbers of children being admitted to hospital on place of safety orders that in a telephone conversation she asked Dr Marietta Higgs if she could slow her rate of diagnosis, she told the judicial inquiry into the affair yesterday.

Dr Higgs enthusiastically embraced the diagnostic technique of reflex anal dilatation, pioneered by Dr Wynne and her colleague, Dr Christopher Hobbs, to diagnose scores of children in Cleveland as sexual abuse victims.

Dr Wynne has told the inquiry that the technique had to be viewed as part of a larger jigsaw of evidence needed to

make a diagnosis of sexual abuse.

She was asked by Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss, the judge heading the inquiry in Middlesbrough, whether there was a danger of her teachings being taken by some people on the basis of first finding medical evidence and then looking for supporting corroboration. Dr Wynne agreed.

Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss: "That I do not think, if I am right, is the message you wish to put out?" Dr Wynne: "No." Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss: "It is, I think, the message that is going out in certain quarters."

Dr Wynne said that when she asked Dr Higgs if she could slow the rate of diagnosis, Dr Higgs said: "It is very difficult if the children come with signs that seem to be clearly of child sexual abuse; how can I not diagnose sexual abuse?"

The inquiry was adjourned until Monday.

Liaison 'vital to fight child abuse'

By Ruth Gledhill

Social workers, police, the medical profession and voluntary organizations were urged yesterday to forget their differences and work more closely when attempting to deal with child sexual abuse.

In one area alone, co-operation between the professions has meant the number of referrals for sexual abuse has risen from three in 1980 to 440 last year, a conference in London was told yesterday.

"We need to have a recognition by all authorities of the seriousness of the problems", Mr Tom White, director of the National Children's Home, told Britain's first national conference on child sexual abuse.

Mr White urged professionals to treat seriously those children who say they have been abused.

"One very much applauds the fact that the problem was treated seriously in Cleveland. One of the problems with Cleveland is that much of the publicity has concentrated on the family welfare and the legal issues."

Mr Derek James, director of social services in Leeds, where figures suggest that one in 400 children is being sexually abused and 36 per cent of sexually abused children are aged under five, said: "It is not a myth. I have seen the effects on children."

Timeshare companies smarten up their image

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The British timeshare industry yesterday moved to set strict standards of conduct for developers and protect buyers' interests.

A new Timeshare Developers Association will represent 36 developers with about 50 resorts in Britain and Europe — about half the industry.

Another five should have joined by the end of the year. The stringent scrutiny of the legal framework of applicants' timeshare properties by a panel of lawyers has delayed their acceptance.

Members of the association must ensure that if they employ "canvassers" they work in accordance with local laws, are clearly identifiable and must operate away from

areas primarily used for relaxation, including beaches and pools.

Information about properties must be accurate, and all contracts must include a five-day cooling off period. Incentives to look at or purchase must be clearly described and absolutely genuine, as must discounts to "buy on the day".

The association, a merger of three timeshare bodies — the

'Give pregnant women a test for Aids virus'

A group of medical experts have called for the screening of all pregnant women for the Aids virus.

In a letter to *The Lancet*, nine leading figures say that the rejection by the House of Commons Social Service Committee of even anonymous screening is "neither scientifically nor ethically coherent".

'Working women healthier'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Women who have a job are healthier and live longer than women who do not go to work, a conference was told yesterday.

Studies showed that working women have a 20 per cent lower death rate and are less prone to heart and respiratory disease and diabetes, Dr Valerie Beral, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said.

However, employed women are slightly more at risk of lung cancer, probably because they smoke more at work than women at home, Dr Beral told the Medical Women's Federation symposium in London.

Although working women were generally healthier, the reasons were unclear and more research was needed, Dr Beral said.

The Business Woman's Travel Club, launched in London yesterday, is to black-list airlines, hotels and travel agencies which fail to improve services for women executives travelling alone.

The club says its members are tired of being sexually harassed, ignored and overcharged. Travelling women say they are often treated "like second class citizens".

A rosy future for directors

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Company directors are full of optimism for the future employment prospects of their companies, while their pay, bonuses and standards of living are booming, according to a survey, covering 6,964 company directors and 30,990 senior executives.

The report on employment trends, by the Institute of Directors and the Reward Group, says: "The percentage expecting to increase their employees over the next twelve months has hit a record high and, for the first time, the figure for factory staff has exceeded 50 per cent."

The average forecast for rises in their own pay next year is 6 per cent, although just over a quarter expect 10 per cent or more. The Reward Group estimates that the average will be about 8 per cent.

Managing directors' basic pay ranges from £25,000 to £44,000, with an average of £32,000; with benefits, that rises to £37,000.

An executive director receives on average 83 per cent of his managing director's pay; senior managers 61 per cent, and supervisors 28 per cent.

Directors in computer services lead the field: the average basic pay is £60,000 for chairmen, £44,000 for managing directors and £34,000 for other directors; with benefits these rise to £70,000, £52,000 and £40,000 respectively.

The most popular car is the Jaguar, as it has been throughout the 1980s. The number two position is held by the Ford Granada this year. Previous second place holders have been BMW (1986, 1983, 1982), Mercedes (1985, 1984) and Rover (1981, 1980).

The report points out that last year it warned companies and executives against swapping cash bonuses for share option schemes, saying, "This puts senior executives at some risk of a collapse in share prices."

It adds: "How true this was."

Directors' Rewards 1987 - 1988 (The Reward Group, 1 Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8BA. Price £130).

Another survey published today finds that benefits in kind, job security and family protection are all influenced by status and job category.

In ill-health or death the senior manager and family is better protected than a factory worker. An office typist has a shorter working week and more chance of medical insurance than the factory worker.

Monks Guide to Employment Conditions 1987 (Monks Publications, Deben Green, Suffolk Walden, Essex. CB11 3LX. Price £15).

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In ill-health or death the senior manager and family is better protected than a factory worker. An office typist has a shorter working week and more chance of medical insurance than the factory worker.

Monks Guide to Employment Conditions 1987 (Monks Publications, Deben Green, Suffolk Walden, Essex. CB11 3LX. Price £15).

ing directors and £34,000 for other directors; with benefits these rise to £70,000, £52,000 and £40,000 respectively.

The most popular car is the Jaguar, as it has been throughout the 1980s. The number two position is held by the Ford Granada this year. Previous second place holders have been BMW (1986, 1983, 1982), Mercedes (1985, 1984) and Rover (1981, 1980).

The report points out that last year it warned companies and executives against swapping cash bonuses for share option schemes, saying, "This puts senior executives at some risk of a collapse in share prices."

It adds: "How true this was."

Directors' Rewards 1987 - 1988 (The Reward Group, 1 Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8BA. Price £130).

Galileo first edition fetches £19,800

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A first edition of Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius* in which he relates how he first heard about a new Dutch invention, the telescope, produced the best price at the first day of Sotheby's manuscript and book sale yesterday.

Galileo also describes what he saw through it: the moon's irregular surface and the satellites of Jupiter.

Although "a little wormed", as the catalogue says, it sold for £19,800 to the book dealers Quarrier (estimate £12,000 to £15,000).

The best lots of the two-day sale, including a hitherto unknown manuscript by Liszt, come up today.

In the same sale, a group of autograph poems by the artist Egon Schiele, when he was aged 20, fetched £70,950. As they show a preoccupation with women, priests and death, it comes as no surprise that this Austrian artist was a follower of Freud.

At Christie's Amsterdam, a collar necklace by Boucheron fetched £30,621 and a white gold bracelet by Cartier £17,012.

Cigarette cards sold well at Phillips, all three top lots being snapped up by a Sussex-based businessman who started collecting for investment in July this year. His highest price was £6,050 (estimate £5,000 to £7,000) for a set of Globe cigarette Co cards decorated with pictures of actresses.

Among top prices so far at

the first City of London Antiques Fair was a Georgian mahogany sideboard, sold for more than £12,000 by Michael Wakelin and Helen Linfield.

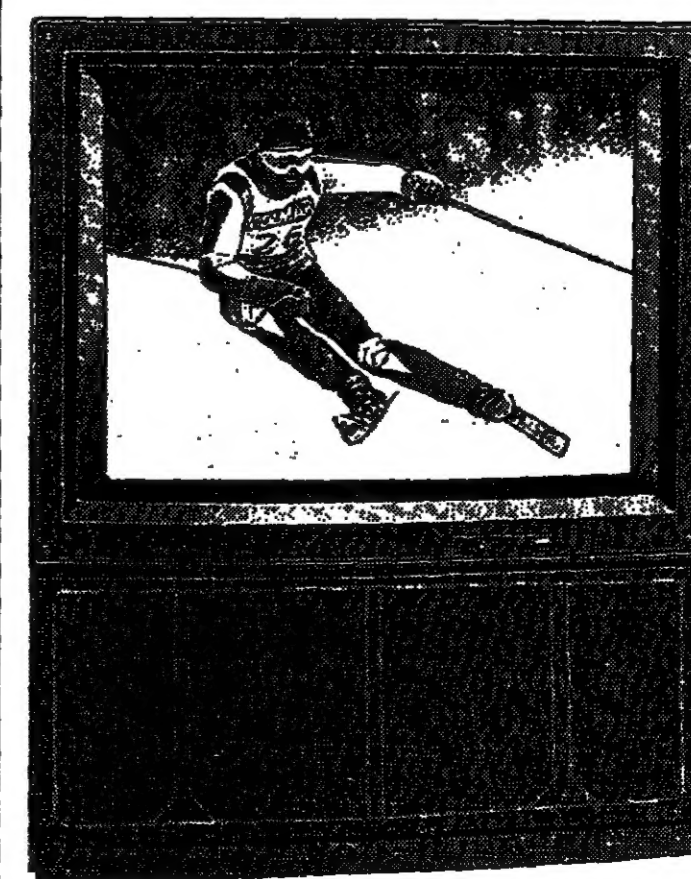
Christie's South Kensington was left with 30 per cent unsold at its watches, clocks and barometers sale — most notably a gold perpetual calendar wristwatch by Audemars Piguet, shown on the catalogue cover, and estimated at up to £9,000.

The best price was for a late eighteenth-century chiming longcase clock which went for £5,500 (estimate £2,000 to £5,500). Bonhams was delighted with two prices at its tapestry sale, when an embroidery of Charles I and Henrietta Maria surrounded by heraldic beasts fetched £9,200.

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November 26 1987

'Bogus figures' on NHS hospitals rejected by Cook

There was no more important duty with which a government was charged than the funding of essential patient care, Mr Robin Cook, Opposition spokesman on health and social services, told MPs.

The crisis in the health service was profound, he said. The Government came up with bogus statistics, but the truth was that resources were getting tighter.

Opening the Opposition-initiated debate on financial pressures on hospitals in the National Health Service, he said that a clear majority of district health authorities in England and Wales - a total of 101 - projected a deficit to the end of the financial year.

Health service underfunding was a national problem. It had a common solution: more funds from the centre.

Shropshire district health authority, in discussing cuts for 1990-91, would probably close 10 out of 15 cottage hospitals, with the loss of 364 beds. Yet the authority already had some of the nation's longest waiting lists.

Deficits this financial year would range from one-third of a million pounds upwards.

The most obvious and common cuts this year had been the sharp reduction in the number of beds. This year, their number had been shrinking at a rapidly accelerating rate.

In the South East Thames region, the Medical Advisory Committee reported that waiting lists in the first nine months of 1987 increased by one-fifth.

There was a report of breast cancer operations being postponed four or five times.

The report of the national audit office had shown that operating times were not in use for half the time. It cost an average of £450 for each hour that a theatre was in use. District health authorities could not afford to maintain even the present rate of use, let alone extend it.

This was Catch 22: to cut the waiting lists they must run operating theatres more efficiently but to meet the cash

limits they must run them inefficiently.

The heart operation on David Barber had been postponed five times in six weeks. Today it had been learnt that 70 operations had been cancelled in the past five months. The problem could be solved only by increasing the number of intensive care places and training more staff.

West Midlands regional health authority had been obliged to postpone its capital programme and one of the casualties of that was the new children's hospital, which would have included an increased number of intensive care units for children.

The doctors who operated on David Barber had been told that the start of building that new hospital had been delayed indefinitely, thus condemning children in the West Midlands to suffer the same delays and uncertainties in the future that David Barber's parents had experienced.

Sir James Ackers, the chairman of the regional health authority, had been seen in the House yesterday evening, walking down the Prime Minister's corridor. Could the minister clarify whether it was Sir James or the Prime Minister who was offering to resign because of problems in the West Midlands?

Everyone had seen the full-page newspaper advertisements in which Great Ormond Street Hospital was inviting contributions from the public. There could be no more damning indictment of this Government's stewardship of the NHS than to see that great hospital driven into the arms of professional fund-raisers.

He was prepared to concede that there had been some increase in resources if the minister was prepared to concede that it was not enough to keep the health service going. He begged the minister to recognize that there was a problem, even if it was not prepared to do anything about it.

If the minister was not prepared to do anything about it, he appealed to Conservative backbenchers. He understood their dilemma and he knew the pressures that the whips could apply.

If there were a secret ballot at the end of this debate, he suspected that the Opposition

motion would be carried. If those Conservative MPs who had expressed anxiety about the health service in their local papers really meant what they said, they should vote for the extra resources which they knew the health service needed.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister of Health, moved an amendment welcoming the increase in the number of people being treated in hospital and community health services, and recognizing the work of all groups of staff who had made that possible.

The amendment also congratulated the Government on maintaining the NHS programme of hospital building and providing a high level of investment in the service next year. It also reaffirmed the Government's intention to continue the promotion of a comprehensive health service.

He said that looking back at the previous Labour Government it was not surprising that Mr Cook should have spent so much time apologizing.

In 1978-79, the NHS in England cost as a whole just over £6,400 million. This year, the figure would be £17,000 million, an increase not only of almost a third in real terms, but an increase in any terms, whatever statistical analysis was applied.

Reference had been made to the percentage of GDP taken by the health service. For the next two or three years that figure would be more than 5 per cent, probably significantly more. Under the previous Labour Administration it had been 4.8 per cent, significantly less.

The present figure was even better when taking into account the fact that since 1979 there had been a considerable increase in GDP.

How much more difficult would the existing pressures be but for that big increase in expenditure.

There had been an increase of 15 per cent, or 5,400, in community doctors and dentists since 1979, an increase of 12 per cent, or 4,000, in general practitioners and dental practitioners, nearly a 15 per cent increase, or more than 50,000, in hospital community nurses and midwives, and a 33 per cent increase in the professional and technical staff that underpinned so many of the screening programmes.

PARLIAMENT



Tory cheers for Gorbachov

Loud Conservative cheers greeted Mrs Thatcher's announcement at question time that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, was to visit London on his way to the United States for next month's summit meeting.

The Prime Minister told MPs that the Soviet Ambassador had that morning told her that Mr Gorbachov had accepted her invitation to him to make a short stop in the United Kingdom on his way to the United States-Soviet summit meeting in Washington.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said that Mr Gorbachov's visit would be welcome. "Will the Prime Minister tell him that we have read with interest his plans and his book on Perestroika, and restructuring, and that if he cares to make his stay a little longer she may be able to give him some tips on how to make the enterprise culture work, something which he would find useful in further Soviet reforms?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government firmly supported the courageous changes being made internally in the Soviet Union and wished them well, and supported, too, the new intermediate-weapon treaty that would be signed soon.

"I hope Mr Gorbachov will accept my invitation for a longer stay in this country, but I am pleased he is coming to visit us so that we can have talks before he meets President Reagan."

Sir Peter Baker (Blackpool South, C) supported the Prime Minister's warm welcome to Mr Gorbachov. He hoped that his visit would allow for the resumption of the dialogue she had had with Mr Gorbachov in Moscow. He also offered a warm welcome for the agreement which Mr Gorbachov was going to sign, as a complete indication of the Prime Minister's policy.

Mrs Thatcher: I hope Mr Gorbachov will be here for a few hours so that we can have a full discussion on matters affecting the Soviet Union, and also on the future, beyond the nuclear weapons treaty which is, I agree, a vindication of the firmness of NATO and particularly of the attitude of this country.

Thatcher fighting back with health service statistics

Mrs Thatcher met noisy Labour criticism of her attitude to the health service and the waiting lists of babies and others for operations with statistics about increased numbers of nurses and doctors since the Government took office, and the fact that the taxpayer was paying much more for the service.

Mrs Joan Ruddock (Leisham, Depford, Lab) said that after the controversy over the heart operation on the baby David Barber, roughly 34 children's lives have been similarly at risk and one has died while waiting for a bed.

"The catastrophic nurse shortage arises because of their miserable pay and conditions (Labour cheers)."

Did agency nurses have to be brought in at a desperate cost for that operation to take place?

Mrs Thatcher: There are 64,000 more nurses and midwives now than there were in the lifetime of the last Labour Government. The number look-

ing after intensive care rose by 127 per cent between 1981 and 1986.

That shows an enormous improvement in the services available.

I am not certain whether she is aware that the number of deaths of children in the first seven days after birth is down by a third.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) asked what advice the Prime Minister would give to the parents of the other 34 children, in the light of the fact that David Barber had been operated upon only as a result of a tremendous amount of publicity arranged by his parents.

"It is about time she shook herself out of her arrogance and complacency in dealing with this matter," he said to Labour cheers and Conservative protests.

Mrs Thatcher: David Barber received his operation and it has

gone well. The hospital has coped very well.

I have already indicated that the number of paediatric nurses - (Labour protests)

I shall give the facts. What we can do is governed by the professional skill available.

That has greatly increased over the past eight years - doctors, nurses and paediatric nurses - and Mr Wareing does less than justice to the work of that increasing number. It might be better to congratulate them on their work.

Miss Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab): What will she do about the desperate health situation in Birmingham? Not one baby, but many, are waiting for months for operations, and cancer patients are also waiting for treatment.

I have a constituent with secondary cancer who has not been taken in because beds are temporarily closed.

PRIME MINISTER

Kidney patients who came down from Birmingham yesterday know that there is not enough money for their treatment after April, and they fear that they will die.

Everyone in Birmingham, and in the country, knows that there is not enough money.

She asked the Prime Minister to stop making party political points - (laughter) - and instead to give a pledge that there would be more money.

"The situation is desperate and people are dying because of lack of money in the health service."

Mrs Thatcher: She and everyone else knows that greater provision can only be made out of greater growth in the economy, and that is what is provided by the Government.

The many more nurses and

specialist nurses, and the greater number of patients treated were paid for, not by the Treasury or some mythical person, but by the taxpayer.

"When we came to power, the taxpayer was paying - that is the average family -

In general Opposition protests, Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley East, Lab) shouted: "We don't want your figures. They are dying."

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): He must contain himself.

Mrs Thatcher: The service is not free. It is paid for by the taxpayer. The average family in 1979 contributed £1.1 a week to the health service - £570 a year (Labour protests).

Now - if I can make myself heard - the average family is contributing £29 a week, or £1,500 a year.

They are paying for the health service. Their money has gone to increase the number of

Group of Seven meeting needs careful study

There had to be proper preparations before there was a meeting of the Group of Seven leading nations (G7) in the wake of the fall in international stock markets, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told MPs.

They had to be sure that conditions were right for all parties concerned to agree to stabilization of the dollar. That was an essential element in his opinion, in avoiding recessionary dangers.

He hoped that there would be a meeting of the group before Christmas in the wake of the recent deal on the American budget deficit.

"We want to make sure that the US Congress will support the package which has been negotiated between their leaders and the Administration. That is to take place after the Thanksgiving holiday."

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, had asked why there had not been a G7 meeting within a week of the Washington deal's being reached, as Mr Lawson had predicted.

When would this very important meeting, which everyone was waiting for, be?

Why was the Chancellor resisting calls to reduce interest rates, which would do so very much to support British industry in what might be a difficult time ahead?

Mr Lawson replied that British industry was doing ex-

TREASURY

tremely well and was extremely confident about the future.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C) asked Mr Lawson would consider making further reductions in interest rates if the increasing strength of sterling started to affect the very buoyant level of British exports.

Mr Lawson said that he was always ready to consider reductions in interest rates when he thought them appropriate. Since the stock market collapse, interest rates had gone down by a full point.

"At the present time, I do not think that any further reduction is called for, but it is certainly something I will bear in mind."

It was a difficult time. They were all concerned that possible recessionary influences might come from the collapse and particularly from the United States.

There were still inflationary forces in the economy that had to be kept under control.

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) drew his attention to two reports published by the CBI, one of which showed that exports and orders were at their highest level since 1977, as were investment intentions.

Mr Lawson replied that it was significant that these showed the confidence of industry undiminished by the stock market fall.

Labour onslaught over exports

Imports had increased by 81 per cent, while exports of manufactured goods had risen by only 34 per cent, Mr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell South, Lab) said in exchanges about the growth of manufactured exports since 1981.

Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, while agreeing that it was "entirely true", said: "That is hardly surprising - we are growing faster than our competitors."

Earlier, he reminded MPs that the nation's growth in productivity since 1979 had been about 4 per cent a year, the fastest of all the big industrial countries.

Now, the Confederation of

British industry was pointing out that productivity and output were good.

Mr Gordon Brown, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury matters, disagreed.

On monthly figures available to him, manufacturing output and industrial production were starting to fall and the manufacturing trade deficit was the worst ever. Even the CBI were predicting that unemployment would start rising early in 1988.

Mr Major, amid loud Labour protests, contended that Mr Brown had got all his facts wrong.

"When he produces the right information, I will respond to him."

Supporters' revolt 'is in prospect'

By Nicholas Wood Political Correspondent

The Government is facing a potential grass-roots rebellion over its education Bill, Mr Leon Brittan, the former Cabinet minister, said last night.

His far-reaching proposals are in danger of being interpreted as a wholesale assault on council schools and so alienating Tory activists.

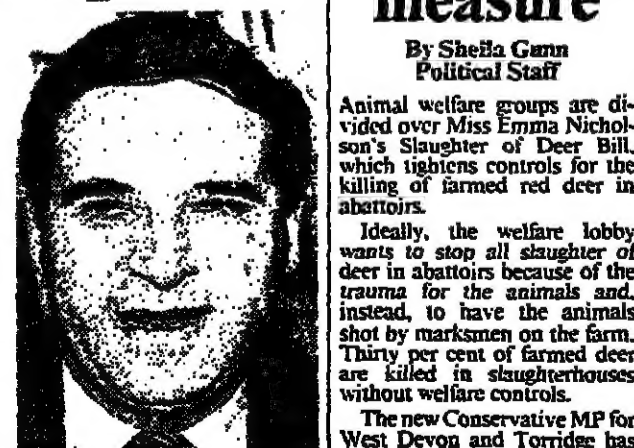
Implying a change in ministerial rhetoric about local government, Mr Brittan said that not every council should be tarred with the same brush as the extremists of Liverpool or Lambeth. Many were doing an excellent job and that should be recognized.

The former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and Conservative MP for Richmond, Yorkshire, sounded the alarm over the clause to allow schools to opt out of local authority control. Last week, a Labour survey of 22 Tory councils replying to the Government's consultations over the Bill disclosed that only six supported opting out.

Mr Brittan told Guildford Young Conservatives: "Almost every aspect of the Bill is open to misrepresentation, but amply justifiable if properly explained and applied in the right way."

"That is why it is so vital to present the Bill as a constructive and imaginative push towards higher standards and greater choice, and not to allow it to be misrepresented as wholesale condemnation of the considerable achievements of local authority schools over much, if not most, of the country."

"In those parts of the country where the extremist policies of local authorities have lost them



Mr Leon Brittan: "Not all councils are extremists."

the confidence of parents, it is entirely right that a way out should be provided.

"But if the support of the Conservative Party in the country is to be solid behind these proposals, it is very important to show also that we realize that not every council is a Liverpool or a Lambeth."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has said she expects most schools to forsake the local authority umbrella and Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has said he expects many to do so.

Mr Brittan took a markedly different line, describing the opt-out clause as a "safety valve" for parents confronted with recalcitrant schools and a way of prodding local authorities into making amendments.

Unrest on slaughter measure

By Sheila Gann Political Staff

Animal welfare groups are divided over Miss Emma Nicholson's Slaughter of Deer Bill, which tightens controls for the killing of farmed red deer in abattoirs.

Ideally, the welfare lobby wants to stop all slaughter of deer in abattoirs because of the trauma for the animals and, instead, to have the animals shot by marksmen on the farm. Thirty per cent of farmed deer are killed in slaughterhouses without welfare controls.

The new Conservative MP for West Devon and Torridge has drawn eighth in the private members' ballot and, because her Bill is supported by the Government, it stands a good chance of being enacted.

Miss Nicholson hopes that the measure will help her local farmers, now living under milk quotas and other restrictions, to find an alternative income. Demand for venison from supermarkets is growing.

She pointed out that her Bill will allow only specially licensed abattoirs to slaughter, kill deer off the farm with each animal penned and killed separately in the presence of a veterinary surgeon. It also applies to Scotland.

Animal Aid and Compassion in World Farming, which oppose all slaughter in abattoirs, are against the Bill, but the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) welcomed it as at least "half a loaf".

The RSPCA added: "This is an area which desperately needs tightening up. What we would like is for all deer to be slaughtered on the farm."

Statue agreed for Lord Dowding

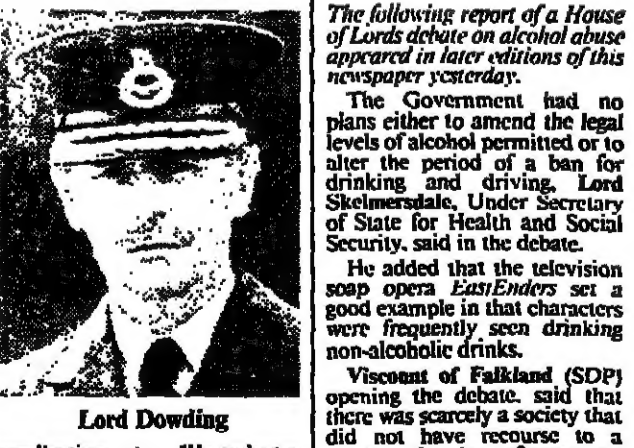
The Government has agreed that a statue of the late Lord Dowding, head of the Royal Air Force Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain, should be erected in London. Lord Belstead, Minister of State for Environment, announced during questions in the House of Lords.

He told Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) that the Government had been doing all that it could to ensure that a suitable site was found.

After discussions with the Royal Fine Arts Commission, a site beside St Clement Danes - the RAF church - was being investigated.

The church authorities decided this week that a formal application may be made.

The next step will be for the organizers to make a formal



Lord Dowding

application to Westminster Council for planning approval.

He added that it was hoped that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother would unveil the statue.

Speaker to consider 'Spycatcher' request

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) is to decide if a judge's ruling that comments in the House of Commons could not be reported in newspapers for the duration of a court case - regarding the Spycatcher affair - touched upon parliamentary privilege.

The matter arose on a point of order from Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab). The case involved the Attorney General versus The Guardian and The Observer. The newspapers' lawyers had asked if journalists could report what had been said in Parliament on July 21, 1986, in relation to the Peter Wright case.

Counsel for the Crown had

said that it would be wrong because that would defeat the purpose of the exercise before the court. The judge had agreed, adding that newspapers should not report statements previously made.

The judge had ruled that Commons proceedings could not be reported in relation to a case currently taking place - proceedings which took place one-and-a-half years ago.

He asked Mr Weatherill to overturn the judgement.

The Speaker asked Mr Campbell-Savours to write to him on the matter. He would look into it to see if it touched upon the privilege of the House.

House of Lords debate

EastEnders' good example

It played a part in child abuse, road accidents, crime and the break up of marriages.

In a maiden speech, Lord Dorman of Easington (Lab) said that the law should be changed to bring in random breath testing of drivers. Drivers must be made aware that there was a considerable possibility of being tested.

Last year 1,100 people died as the result of drinking and driving and during the debate four more people would have been killed.

The Government spent much time and resources on the drug problem and yet 10 times as many teenagers were killed by alcohol as were by heroin.

The Bishop of Gloucester, Dr John Yates, said that most Christians believed that alcohol was part of the natural creation and not therefore in itself evil. The Bible was ambivalent on the issue.

Lady Masham of Ilton (Ind), who chaired a Home Office working party on alcohol, young people and crime, said that

alcohol abuse had killed one of her in-laws and she was once attacked in her car by a drunk. Her son had recently been attacked and injured by four American drunks near Fosse-dilly.

Lord Rea (Lab) said that, as a doctor, every day he saw the results of heavy drinking. Members of his family had suffered from alcoholism. One had committed suicide and another had tried to throw himself off Westminster Bridge and had later died of cirrhosis of the liver.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (C) said that alcohol was not the evil that everybody had out it was. It was part of the social fabric and Britain was not a very drunken nation. A moderate intake was beneficial.

For the Opposition, Lord Ennals said he could not understand why the Government had chosen this time to introduce a Bill to extend public house opening hours. It was also disgraceful that the Courage brewery planned to take over sponsorship of the FA Cup.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Housing Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Education Reform Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debates on Opposition motions on the economy and on protecting lives in the community. Motions on the establishment of select committees.

Thursday: Debate on Public Accounts Committee reports for 1985-86 and 1986-87.

Friday: Debate on backbench motion on Cyprus.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, committee, first day.

Tuesday: Criminal Justice Bill, third reading.

Wednesday: Debate on the world economy.

Thursday: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, committee, second day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private Member's motion on freedom of the press.

Changing genes of test tube babies will be criminal offence

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A ban on genetically manipulating human embryos is being proposed by the Government, in a White Paper published yesterday.

If the proposals become law, it will become a criminal offence to use spare embryos obtained during test tube baby treatments for research into cloning or genetic alteration.

However, the new law could allow for a restricted degree of research in one of four possible categories. The work would be subject to a statutory licence.

In addition, scientists would have to demonstrate that the research could lead to improvements in the treatment of infertility, in knowledge of the factors causing congenital disease, in the detection of gene or chromosome abnormalities before implantation, and in forms of contraception.

The document makes clear the Government's intention to ban any research that could open the way to a world in which people are created to order.

Experiments will be monitored by a statutory licensing authority established to regulate and monitor test tube baby clinics.

However, a ban is intended on any research involving genetic manipulation of the embryo, production of genetically identical individuals through cloning or the fusion of human and animal cells.

The White Paper said: "One of the greatest causes of public disquiet has been the perceived possibility that newly developed techniques will allow the artificial creation of human beings with certain pre-determined characteristics through modification of an embryo's genetic structure."

"The technical prospects for achieving this are in fact extremely remote."

"Nevertheless, it is a procedure which society would clearly regard as ethically unacceptable and the Bill will prohibit it."

The extent of the permitted research is a matter on which the Government expects possible amendments. In fact, the White Paper has two alter-

native draft clauses, one making it a criminal offence to carry out any research, the other permitting licensed research projects.

The permitted research is then described as covering projects restricted to bringing about advances in diagnostic or therapeutic techniques, or in fertility control.

The Government will allow MPs a free vote on this as it believes it is a matter of individual conscience. If MPs decide to allow research, it will be limited to the first 14 days of the embryo's existence.

The White Paper says "those who favour the continuation of embryo research argue that it offers very important benefits, for example in the improvement of infertility treatment itself and in detecting genetic disorders."

"Opponents of research argue that from the point of conception, embryos have the same status as a child or an adult and it is improper to conduct research, whatever its benefits for others, that would lead to their eventual destruction."



Family of 'Baby Cotton' delighted

By India Knight

The first baby born to a commercial surrogate mother in Britain was "Baby Cotton", born in January 1985 amid controversy after her surrogate mother, Mrs Kim Cotton, was artificially inseminated by the child's father.

The baby was returned to her biological father and his infertile wife 10 days after her birth. Mrs Cotton was paid a fee of £6,500.

Almost three years later, the child is said to be doing "marvellously" by Mr Derek Kirby-Jones, the biological father's solicitor, who is in contact with the family, believed to be wealthy Americans.

"The family is flourishing and delighted and everything has gone marvellously well", Mr Kirby-Jones said last night.

"This really was one of the most successful surrogacy cases ever. Kim Cotton is remarkably balanced emotionally."

Mrs Cotton, speaking last night from her home in north London, agreed and added that she was happy with her own family and has no interest in finding out about the child she once carried.

No legal rights for parents of surrogate child

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Parents who commission a surrogacy arrangement will have no legal rights over the child and surrogacy contracts will be unenforceable in the courts, according to controversial proposals in the White Paper.

The recommendations which will give surrogate mothers the right to keep any children they bear will deter most childless couples from using surrogacy arrangements as a way of having a family.

The document makes clear that any woman who bears a child after artificial insemination by donor or embryo donation will be its legal mother.

"Legislation will also make clear that the donors of the gametes or embryos will have no parental rights or duties in relation to the child."

Although the Government has decided not to outlaw surrogacy arrangements other than those organized by commercial agencies, its decision to give the surrogate mother legal rights to the child will make it virtually impossible for the commissioning

parents to adopt the child if the carrying mother pursues her rights.

The document also emphasizes that the forthcoming Bill will not include any provision to licence non-commercial surrogacy agencies and that any contract drawn up in such an arrangement will be unenforceable in the UK courts.

As a result of the outcry after the Baby Cotton case in January 1985 the Government rushed through the Surrogacy Arrangement Act, which bans commercial surrogacy arrangements. Under the Act, only third parties are liable but the surrogate mother and commissioning parents are free from prosecution even when the arrangement is made through a commercial agency.

"We do not at present propose to extend the criminal law any further in this field of surrogacy but intend that the statutory licensing authority should be asked to examine the practice of surrogacy so that Parliament can review the situation from time to time on the basis of informed advice", the paper says.

Test-tube clinics face tight controls

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Tougher statutory controls are to be imposed on in vitro fertilization units and clinics undertaking embryo research.

They will have to obtain licences for each technique they carry out.

The White Paper has accepted the Warnock committee recommendation to set up an independent statutory licensing authority to monitor and control these clinics.

It will be a criminal offence to create, use or store a human embryo outside the body without an appropriate licence from the licensing authority.

It will be forbidden to use eggs or sperm donated by a third party to create an embryo within the human body without a licence.

The proposals fall short of the Warnock recommendations that the licensing authority should license those offering treatment and all premises involved in providing these services or storage facilities. The Government says this would be too cumbersome.

The licensing authority will instead be expected to grant five-year licences for each programme of infertility services. The licence will be held by the person in charge of the programme and relate to the services offered.

Licences would also be

granted to individuals for storing embryos, eggs and sperm where no clinical services are carried out, such as sperm banks.

The new authority will replace the existing voluntary licensing authority established two years ago after concern over in vitro fertilization developments.

The existing licensing authority has no statutory powers and is widely considered to have no teeth. Clinics can continue to practise even if their licence is withdrawn.

The new authority will "regulate and monitor practice in relation to those sensitive areas which raise fundamental ethical questions."

The White Paper says this will go beyond medical and professional ethical questions to wider ethical issues such as "the artificial creation of life outside the body."

The White Paper proposes that the new authority should be chaired by someone who is not a doctor or a scientist involved in the field and that at least half the members should be lay people.

The licensing authority will have to maintain a register of information about egg, sperm and embryo donors which would be accessible to children born by these techniques.

Embryo storage to be under legal controls

By Our Science Editor

The storage of embryos, unfertilized eggs and sperm will in future come under legal controls. The regulations will cover the length of time of maximum storage, the terms of mandatory written agreements from both donors, ownership in the event of their death and the possibility of the sales of embryos.

The White Paper argues that long-term storage of human gametes and embryos gives rise to complex ethical and legal problems.

Over a period of time, donors may become difficult to trace, or may die, leaving problems about the use or disposal of embryos.

Difficulties over rights of succession could arise, for example, if a woman wished to be inseminated with her

husband's stored sperm after his death, or if she wished to have a stored embryo transferred to her womb.

The Government proposes a limit of five years on storage. Storage needs the written consent of both donors. The "storage authority" has no right of use or disposal unless granted by the donors.

Embryos may not be implanted into another woman, nor used for research, nor destroyed without the consent of both donors. If there is disagreement between the donors the embryo will be left to perish.

When giving consent to storage, donors should indicate use of embryos and gametes by their partners should they die.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a woman standing against a textured wall. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved, off-the-shoulder dress and has her hands in her pockets. The image is framed by a thick black border.



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Graduates' job prospects are the best for 15 years

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Job prospects for graduates are better than they have been for 15 years and the outlook is even more encouraging, according to a report published yesterday by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services.

More than 90 per cent of last year's graduates who were looking for a job found one within six months, the report says. Most of the rest were employed within the next six months.

"More employers are recruiting graduates, some for the first time. The number of vacancies for graduates has increased. In part, these developments result from the gradually improving economic situation, in part from a recognition of the need for a better-educated workforce in which graduates will have crucial roles to play", the report says.

The demand is strongest for graduates qualified in electronics and communications engineering, computer appli-

cations, systems engineering, and chemical engineering. Demand is strong, too, for physics and mathematics graduates and for those with a knowledge of mechanical and production engineering.

However, the report says that in choosing degree courses, students appear to be ignoring both where the demand lies and the Government's attempts to meet manpower needs by making more places available on science, engineering and technology courses at the expense of arts and social science places.

It discloses that the demand for university mathematics courses fell by 30 per cent between 1983 and 1986, the demand for physics courses by 25 per cent, for civil engineering, computer studies, chemistry and biochemistry by 15 per cent, and for mechanical engineering by 10 per cent.

Mr Pat Raderecht, the chairman of the association, said: "Students' interest in these subjects is declining at

the very time the Government is increasing the number of places available. One reason is the shortage of high-quality maths and science teaching in schools. Another is that society's perception of engineers and scientists, as measured by their pay and status, is rather low."

The report notes that the growing student demand for places in other subjects is closely in tune with employers' requirements. The demand for university accountancy places rose by 50 per cent between 1983 and 1986, for economics by 35 per cent, and for business management by 30 per cent.

The demand by employers for those who have specialized in business and management studies remains strong, the report says. "Accountancy, banking, insurance, building societies and City of London financial institutions have a continued and expanding need for graduates. Subjects with a clear numerical content

tend to have a better employment rate."

Polytechnic graduates in non-vocational subjects experienced the highest unemployment rates, the report says. Six months after graduating, 20 per cent of those who studied English were unemployed, as were 18.5 per cent of those who studied sociology, 18 per cent of those who studied physics, and 17 per cent of those who studied history.

Some universities are failing to protect freedom of speech on campus as required by last year's Education Act, according to Mr Ray Honeyford, the former Bradford head teacher who resigned his job after a lengthy race dispute.

The Freedom Association is taking legal advice on action to ensure enforcement of the freedom of speech law.

What do graduates do? (Hobson's Publishing plc, Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LZ; £1.75, plus 50p p&hp).

Solid future for medieval barns



Mr Jim Boutwood, assistant county architect, inside the Wheat Barn, one of two Essex barns considered to be among the finest medieval buildings in England and which have received conservation grants totalling £70,000 from the EEC.

Mr Boutwood said: "The barns' future is now safeguarded". Essex County Council bought the two barns at Cressing Temple, near Braintree, for £300,000.

(Photograph: Nick Rogers)

UK link to space university

Leading industrialists and space technologists are meeting at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London today to establish the British end of a new foundation, the International Space University (Pearce Wright writes).

The group, which will form the trustees, includes Mr Roy Gibson, former director general of the National Space

Centre and now special adviser to the International Maritime Satellite Organization, and Dr Geoffrey Pardoe, of General Technology Systems.

The space university, formed with grants of 170,000 and 50,000 dollars from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, was the idea of three American scientists.

This month the university is enrolling for its first courses, planned for next summer at Boston. There are 100 places, including 12 promised for students from the United Kingdom. Italy and Canada have selected candidates. Japan, China and India have expressed interest.

Heads resist Baker reforms

Head teachers are prepared to adopt "passive resistance" tactics against aspects of the national curriculum proposals set out in the Education Bill published last week by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education (Sarah Thompson writes).

The 29,000-strong National Association of Head Teachers is employing a professional parliamentary lobbyist to press MPs to support substantial changes to the Bill.

Among their objections is that the Bill does not take account of the need for 9,000 new teachers, costing nearly £100 million, to teach the foundation subjects to all pupils. The Bill estimates the extra cost of the national curriculum at £33 million.

The Bill gives the secretary of state powers to specify attainment targets, programmes of study, and arrangements for assessment in

relation to the 10 core and foundation subjects to the national curriculum.

But Mr Michael Pipes, president of the association, said many head teachers felt better qualified to judge what was appropriate for their schools. "Some will say that in their classrooms they are going to carry on doing things their way", he said. "They will be doing nothing illegal, it will be passive resistance."

The heads would also press for parents at local primary schools to be allowed to vote on whether a secondary school opts out of local authority control.

The association is calling for training for heads who have to manage their school budgets, for the national curriculum itself to be cut down to only five core subjects, and for testing to be continuous and not to contain any pass/fail element.

Birkbeck finds cash fight ally

Birkbeck College, central London, which is facing a severe financial crisis, has won the support of London University for its campaign to secure an extra government subsidy of £600,000 a year (John Clare writes).

The university court said yesterday that it accepted that the college, which has nearly 2,700 part-time students, risked becoming insolvent next year unless it received a substantial increase in funds.

Banknote artist cleared

By Andrew Morgan

Mr James Boggs, the American artist who specializes in drawing banknotes, promised to continue bringing the wonder of numbers to the world after being cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of reproducing the notes without permission.

The Bank of England had brought a private prosecution against Mr Boggs, aged 32, of Denning Road, Hampstead, north-west London.

It claimed he had reproduced a £10, £5 and two £1 notes without permission under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act, 1981.

Female members of the jury embraced and kissed Mr Boggs outside the court. He claimed that his works were original works of art and not reproductions.

Mr Graham Kentfield, of the Bank of England, said: "This will not be seen as a precedent. Each application to reproduce banknotes will be judged individually."

Mr Mark Stephens, for Mr Boggs, said he had been given a £5 drawing in lieu of his fees.

Three new charges in bride case

New charges were brought yesterday against John Cannan, aged 33, the businessman accused of kidnapping the missing Bristol bride of one month, Mrs Shirley Banks.

In a brief appearance before Bristol magistrates he was additionally charged with offences including maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm and indecent assault. They are alleged to have happened in Sutton Coldfield on December 30, 1986.

Mr Cannan, of Foye House, Bridge Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol, was remanded in custody until Tuesday.

He was previously charged with kidnapping Mrs Banks, aged 29, and stealing her car.

Appeal win

A health authority appeal against a £11,570 High Court damages award to Garrie Mose, aged 11, of Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, who suffered nerve damage to his right leg after a routine operation, was allowed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Weekend food prices

Meat costs more as weather chills

The onset of colder winter weather is reflected in the gradual rise in meat prices, particularly beef and lamb. However, an average purchase will be less than 10p higher than a few weeks ago.

Chuck and braising steak at an average £1.76 a pound is the same as last week and is on special offer at some shops. A steak and kidney mixture for pies and puddings is reasonably priced between £1.28 and £1.49 a pound and could be improved by replacing ox kidney with the more tender lamb's kidney. Fore-rib on the bone costs at £1.53 a pound and boneless sirloin £2.91 a pound.

Home produced lamb is down a couple of pence to an average £1.75 a pound and is on special offer at some shops. A steak and kidney mixture for pies and puddings is reasonably priced between £1.28 and £1.49 a pound and could be improved by replacing ox kidney with the more tender lamb's kidney. Fore-rib on the bone costs at £1.53 a pound and boneless sirloin £2.91 a pound.

Whole leg of pork could be an economical choice for the weekend at around £1.08 a pound or boneless rolled shoulder at £1.24 a pound.

Fish supplies should be good for the weekend but prices have risen. Although large cod and herring are stable at an average £1.94 a pound and 80p a pound, shoppers could pay as much as 9p to 10p a pound more for plaice and Dover sole and 5p more for lemon sole.

At Billingsgate shellfish are abundant with mussels about 50p a pint, oysters £5.90 a dozen, queen scallops 50p each and langoustines £4.99 a pound.

Brussel sprouts are the best vegetable buy at between 20p

and 30p a pound. The cold spell has helped keep the buds tight and improved the flavour. Widely available are carrots at 14p to 24p a pound, parsnips 15p to 35p a pound, swedes 16p to 18p a pound, mushrooms 40p to 60p a half pound, and cauliflowers 40p to 60p each.

Everyone needs the protection of vitamin C to stave off colds and flu and eating lots of sweet juicy citrus fruit is so much nicer than popping a vitamin pill. Superb clementines at 25p to 35p a pound, satsumas 26p to 40p a pound, and oranges 10p to 30p each, are all plentiful. Grapes are cheap at the moment from 45p to 65p a pound, although not as perfect in appearance as earlier in the autumn.

English celery at 60p to 80p a head is near the end of its season but is being replaced by produce from Carmel at 40p to 60p a head. There are adequate supplies of Chinese leaves 40p to 75p a head, iceberg lettuce 75p to £1 a head, watercress 30p to 40p a bunch and good value tomatoes at 45p to 65p a pound.

Some special offers at shops and supermarkets include Sainsbury's fresh chicken up to 3½ pound in weight 59p a pound and braising steak £1.64 a pound. Safeway sirloin steak £2.98 a pound and Chukie frozen turkeys 56p a pound. Asda fresh chicken 59p a pound, sirloin steak £2.89 a pound. Dewhurst whole shoulders of New Zealand lamb 79p a pound and pork chops £1.49 a pound. Bejam topside top rump and silverside joints £1.69 a pound and pork half leg knuckle joint 99p a pound.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Jail tension rises as food runs low

Atlanta — Hundreds of heavily armed police and troops stood by yesterday as government negotiators tried to end two prison uprisings by Cubans fearful of repatriation (Christopher Thomas writes).

About 1,000 inmates at maximum-security Atlanta penitentiary, Georgia, continued to hold 94 prison staff as hostages to back demands for amnesty, while at a detention centre in Oakdale, Louisiana, prisoners are holding 28 staff.

Special army teams have moved into position, but officials say they will not attack unless hostages are hurt. Food is in short supply and police have monitored messages between inmates suggesting that tensions are rising.

UN effort Promise founders by rebels

New York — Iran's repeated failure to make good on a promise to send a peace mission to New York has worn down the patience of Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar (Charles Bremner writes). The UN Secretary-General is on the verge of dropping his attempts to negotiate a ceasefire in the Gulf War.

Officials say he has come round to the view of the three Western powers on the Security Council — Britain, the United States and France — that Iran has little intention of complying with the 10-point peace plan ordered by the Council last July. Tehran has said its team will arrive next week.

Manila — The leaders of the attempted coup in the Philippines in August were reported yesterday to have said that they had ended their attempts to overthrow the Government (Humphrey Hawksley writes).

The announcement came in a letter addressed to "Our countrymen" and sent by the "Soldiers of the Filipino People". It was unsigned, but has been authenticated by sources close to the military rebels. The authors said they had decided "un- equivocally and unconditionally to desist from any hostile action against the Government". There has been no response from the presidential palace.

Opposition leads poll

Paramaribo (AP) — A three-party opposition coalition in Surinam, formerly the colony of Dutch Guiana, was winning by a landslide in unofficial returns yesterday, after the first national elections since Commander Desi Bouterse's band of army sergeants seized power in 1980.

The Front for Democracy and Development appeared to have won between 38 and 40 of the 51 seats in the National Assembly, and most municipal and provincial council seats. The returns confirmed the lack of popular support for military rule and the National Democratic Party.

Pressure on Ershad Colombo presses on

Dhaka — President Ershad of Bangladesh, under pressure to resign by militant opposition groups threatening a 72-hour general strike at the weekend, sought to assure the nation that he was still in control as pro-government activists demonstrated their support yesterday (Ahmed Fazl writes).

An estimated 30,000 supporters of the ruling Jatiyo Party converged on central Dhaka in buses and lorries. Elsewhere the opposition prepared for a street procession with paraffin torches for canvassing support for the strike. President Ershad has expressed willingness to talk to the opposition leaders.

Colombo (Reuters) — Sri Lanka's Parliament voted yesterday to extend the state of emergency for a further month as Indian troops continued their drive to disarm Tamil guerrillas in northern and eastern areas.

MPs supported the extension after the acting Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr M.D. Premaratne, said that political assassinations were on the increase in the south and rebel violence still flared in Tamil-dominated areas. He said there were 25 political murders in the month ending on November 20 and that most of the victims were officials or supporters of the ruling United National Party.

Contra counter-plan



Managua — The Nicaraguan Contras delivered a counter-proposal for a ceasefire to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo (left) on Wednesday (A Correspondent writes).

Contra sources said they were proposing a ceasefire in which they would continue to bear arms in designated zones. The Cardinal, who is mediating in negotiations, will deliver the proposals to the Sandinista Government which wants the Contras to turn in arms on January 5.

Ankara's conscripts fail to tame Kurdish guerrillas

From Michael Dynes, Diyarbakir, south-east Turkey

The military overlord of this south-eastern Anatolian garrison town, Mr Hayri Kozakcioglu, betrays no signs of apprehension at the likelihood of yet another Kurdish separatist act of violence timed to coincide with Turkey's impending general election.

Sitting in his palatial offices, surrounded by security guards mulling into their walkie-talkies, Mr Kozakcioglu nodded his head. "There may be more terrorist outrages," he said. "The election is a good opportunity to cause trouble."

The Kurdish guerrillas, mainly from the Marxist Kurdish Workers' Party, armed with Soviet-made AK47s, Kalashnikovs, rockets and mortars, have been fighting a low-level, but none the less effective, campaign since they started their struggle for an autonomous Kurdistan in August, 1984.

With about 1,000 hard-core members and many thousands of passive supporters, they are able to exploit their knowledge of the region's hostile mountains to harass army patrols and terrorise pro-government villages with relative impunity. Most Kurds are, if anything, exasperated at the Government's failure, despite the presence of 40,000 troops throughout the south-eastern region, to return the area to normality.

Hardly a month goes by without another act of violence. In October, 13 villagers, including six women and two children, were killed in a rebel attack on a village in neighbouring Siirt province. Three weeks later seven Kurdish separatists were killed in a clash with the Army in the same area, bringing the death

toll to more than 700 since the campaign began.

In the opinion of most observers in Ankara, the Government has failed to win the foreign propaganda war with the rebels because of their adamant refusal to grant the Kurdish minority a limited degree of ethnic, linguistic or cultural recognition.

Mr Kozakcioglu insists that the Kurds who, according to most authoritative historical sources, occupied this region for hundreds of years before the Turks arrived are actually

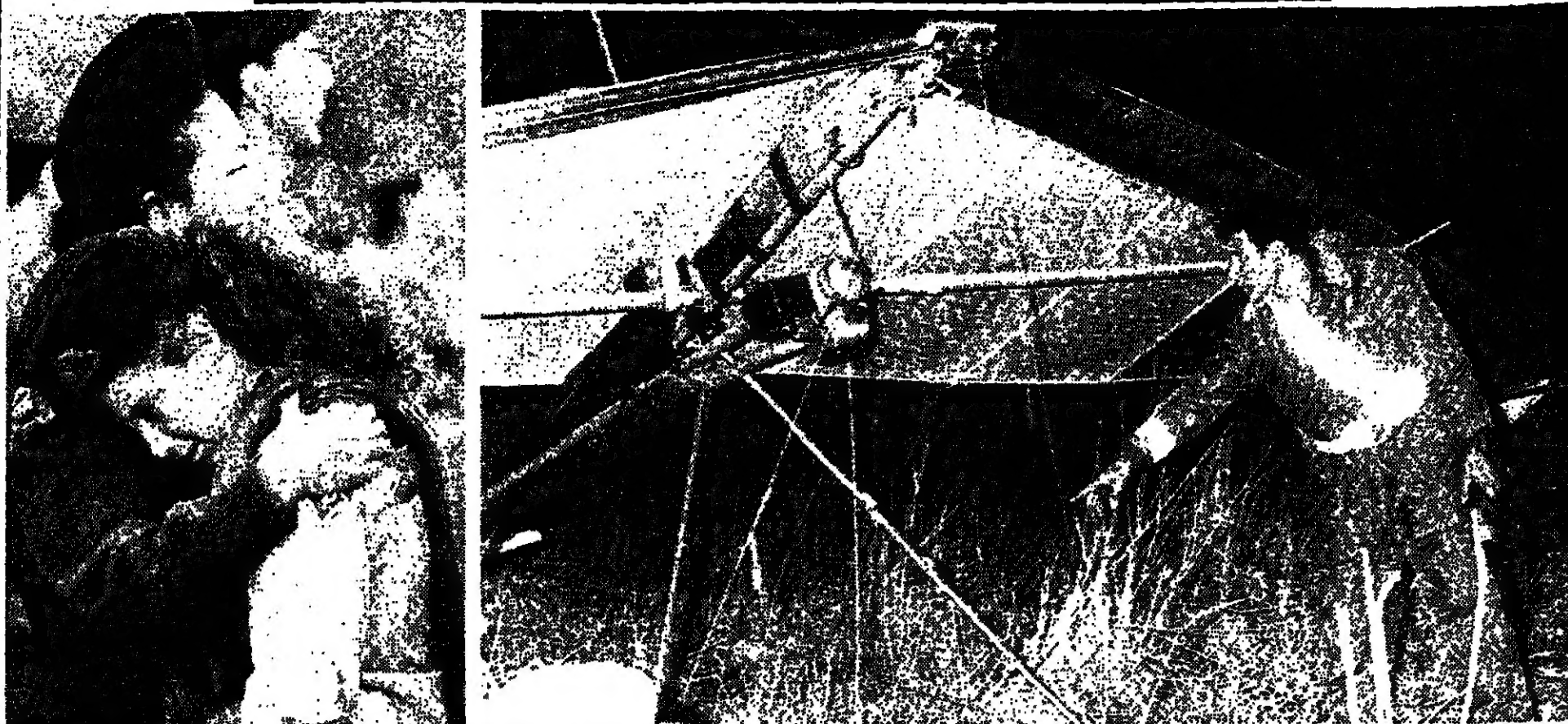
A three-day conference opens today in Paris at the French National Assembly to endorse a recently drafted Declaration of Human Rights for Turkey (Caroline Moorehead writes). The document calls for the end of political trials, a general amnesty, and freedom of association, conscience and thought.

the original Turks who somehow forgot who they were.

This theory of Kurdish racial antecedents is about as convincing as the legend that the Kurds are descended from 400 virgins who were raped by devils on their way to King Solomon's court.

Blinded by memories of the disintegration of the ethnically diverse Ottoman empire after the First World War, the Government refuses to acknowledge there is a distinction between Turks and Kurds.

There is no official recognition of the Kurdish people, and although the Government cannot prevent them from speaking in their mother tongue, the Kurdish language is banned. Diplomats are convinced this is the kind of government intransigence that



Two Israeli women soldiers comforting each other yesterday at the graveside of a comrade killed at a military camp near Kiryat Shemona by a gunman who landed in a hang-glider.

Government orders check-up on air defence

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

A big review of Israel's sophisticated air defence systems has been ordered after they were penetrated late on Wednesday night by a frail, delta-winged hang-glider powered by a small, pull-start outboard motor and carrying a heavily armed Palestinian gunman.

The glider crossed the border north-east of the settlement of Kiryat Shemona and landed safely in a thorny field more than 1½ miles inside Israel.

According to Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, even though the hang-glider had been detected as it crossed the five-mile Israeli-controlled "security zone" inside Lebanon, troops in this sensitive border area were caught by surprise when the young pilot stormed into their camp, throwing grenades and firing his automatic rifle.

Before he was gunned down, he had killed six soldiers and wounded nine, making this the bloodiest single incident inside Israel for eight years. A gunman using another hang-glider landed nearly half a mile inside Lebanon, where he was killed by Israeli troops. General Dan Shomron, the Chief of Staff, said as he studied the glider in its landing field, that it was a characteristic suicide attack.

Kiryat Shemona, which has borne the brunt of cross-border Katyusha rocket attacks for years, knew another night of fear as news of the raid was broadcast by police cars touring the streets. The streets emptied and residents slept in the special reinforced security rooms or in the bomb shelters which every household has. In the morning parents were asked to keep their children away from school, while

army units combed the surrounding countryside in case any other gliders had slipped through.

The raid appears to have started after nightfall when two gliders took off from somewhere to the north-east of the "security zone" and flew west at low level to where the source waters of the Jordan river turn south. The gliders seemed to have followed the river course, one of them coming down short of the border, but the other flying on to land near Gior junction by the main road to Mount Hermon.

The pilot ambushed a passing army van, killing the officer driving it and wounding a woman soldier passenger. He headed south towards the farming community at Bet Hillel, suddenly coming across a temporary army camp.

Instead of heading for the town,

where he might have taken civilian hostages, he attacked. Tossing five grenades into the tents, he opened fire with his Kalashnikov and a fierce gun battle lasted half an hour before he was shot dead.

Army sources said he had been carrying pamphlets which showed that his real mission had been to take civilian hostages against a series of Palestinian demands. Hundreds of troops poured into the area and began an intensive search.

Yesterday two groups claimed responsibility for the attack. One was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command), led by Ahmed Gibril, and the other the Palestine Liberation Front, led by Abu Abbas, whose group was responsible for two unsuccessful attempts to infiltrate

Israel by air six years ago.

An emergency Cabinet meeting was called in Jerusalem yesterday.

●SIDON: Israel yesterday kept Palestinians and Lebanese nervously guessing when and where it would strike to avenge the deaths (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Although there were only routine Israeli military air and naval movements throughout the day, residents in southern Lebanon said they had no doubts that Israel is bracing for a big retaliatory operation.

Israel's reaction could become the most violent response since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The attack on Wednesday is being compared in magnitude to the hijacking of an Israeli bus in 1978 in which 33 passengers were killed.

Zhao bid to curb party role

Peking (Reuters) — Mr Zhao Ziyang, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party, called for thorough political reform in his first important policy speech published since coming to power this month.

Dominating the People's Daily yesterday, it attacked China's bureaucracy and emphasized the importance of stopping the party interfering in the daily affairs of industry and government.

The speech was made to a meeting of the party's Central Committee on October 14. Mr Zhao, appointed party General Secretary on November 2, said history had moved on since the 1949 revolution. Mass movements and a high degree of centralization were no longer suited to China's drive for modernization.

Diplomats said Mr Zhao's main aim was greater economic efficiency. At present, state firms have a two-tier management system: the party committee often gives managers orders that are economically unrealistic.

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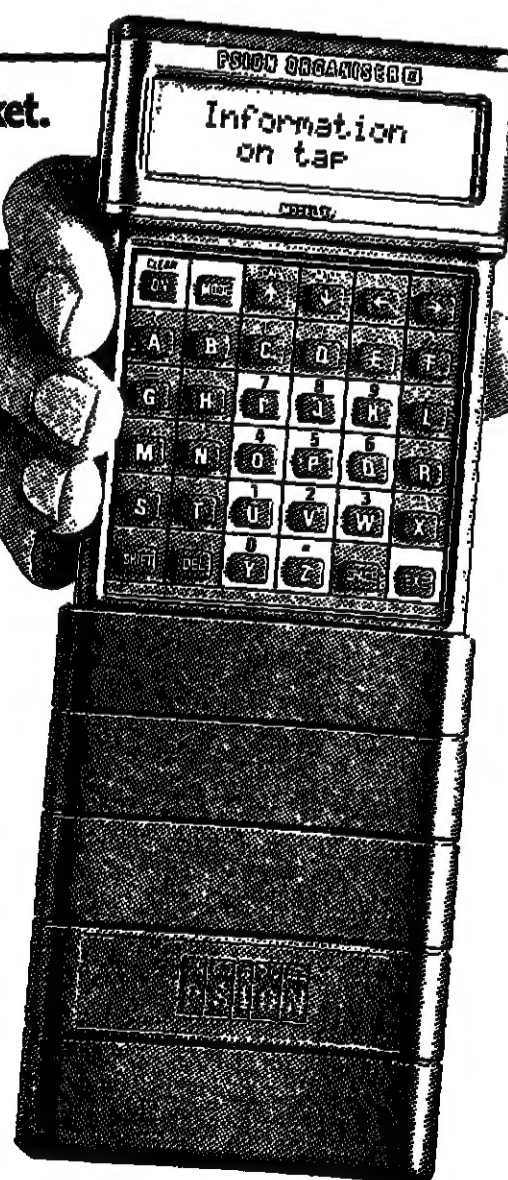
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Miners' union calls Anglo American share offer bribery

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's biggest mining and industrial concern, the Anglo American Corporation, and its diamond-mining arm, De Beers, yesterday announced plans to give up to 8.5 million shares, worth 480 million rand (£140 million), to their 270,000 predominantly black employees over the next five years.

The share offer, the first of its kind, was immediately denounced by the leader of the black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

"The scheme stinks," he told *The Times*. "It is a clear ploy by Anglo American to try and bribe workers and we see it as economic and political blackmail."

Mr Ramaphosa said that the scheme was an attempt "to defuse the maturing challenge of black labour to the hegemony of big business, to get workers to participate in their own enslavement, and to alienate workers from their trade unions."

The NUM, the biggest union in the country, has nearly 300,000 members, of whom some 100,000 work for

Anglo. It was involved in an inconclusive test of strength with Anglo last August when a three-week strike by black miners over pay closed many of the company's gold and coal mines.

At a press conference at company headquarters in Johannesburg — Mr Govan Mbeki, the ANC's former national chairman, freed after 24 years in jail, has been allowed to address a rally in the Zwijlde black township near Port Elizabeth tomorrow

Johannesburg — Mr Gavin Rilly, Anglo's chairman, said he was not surprised by the NUM's reaction. "Trade union leaders like to take the initiative and no doubt they would have preferred a scheme negotiated and controlled by them," he said.

He believed that the NUM would find it difficult to advise its members not to accept a free allocation of shares. A "very extensive" survey conducted by the company among its employees had shown them to be broadly favourable to the scheme.

● **Vote rejected:** The South African Government has rejected a UN Security Council vote demanding withdrawal of its troops from Angola, saying it would decide for itself when its soldiers would pull out (AP reports).

although some had expressed concern about what the union would think.

Mr Rilly described the scheme as being aimed at enhancing "the involvement of employees in wealth creation" and as being "consistent with the world trend away from centralist socialism on the one hand and rigorous capitalism on the other hand."

Initially, Anglo's 2,600 employees at head office with at least two years' qualifying service would each be offered five free shares early next year. Anglo shares are currently valued at 60 rand each.

Other companies in the Anglo group would then be invited to join the scheme, and, if all accept, another 250,000 employees would be offered shares.

Sanctions or shares, page 16



Alvaro Rafael Saravia, accused of killing Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, shying away from cameras as he is driven away from a Miami court after formal charges yesterday.

Brussels budget hopes fade

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The foreign ministers of the Twelve return to Brussels on Sunday for a final attempt to avert a showdown over farm spending at next week's European Economic Community summit in Copenhagen.

The special pre-summit talks follow the breakdown of discussions between EEC farm ministers in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Denmark, which holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers, is increasingly concerned about the prospect of failure at the summit. This would mean going over to an emergency budget system next year. Mr Poul Schluter, the Danish Prime Minister, is to

circulate a letter today to EEC heads of government suggesting a compromise.

But diplomats said that since Mrs Thatcher appeared adamant in her refusal to budge over reform of the common agricultural policy, the key to compromise lay in Bonn. Chancellor Kohl is to call a special Cabinet meeting on whether West Germany is prepared to make concessions.

The farm ministers remained deadlocked despite six meetings in 10 days about mechanisms for limiting farm output to avoid costly food surpluses, which in turn are a drain on the budget.

stabilizers, would penalize farmers through price cuts and taxes whenever agreed production limits were breached. This proposal is strongly backed by Britain and by the European Commission. But France and West Germany, which have powerful farming lobbies, insist on watering down the mechanisms.

Officials said the dispute between Britain and the Commission on the one hand and France and Germany on the other had grown worse.

Some EEC diplomats were yesterday critical of Denmark for not forcing farm ministers to compromise when they met last week.

The Stinger menace Fear-filled flight to war-torn Kabul

From Christopher Walker, Kabul

As Afghan Bakhtar Airlines flight FG605 began its stomach-turning corkscrew descent to Kabul's joint military and civilian airport yesterday, the severity of the air war now being mounted by the Muslim guerrillas became disconcertingly clear to all, including the senior Soviet officials on board the flight from Moscow.

No sooner had the seat belts and no-smoking signs been illuminated than Ahmed, the chief steward, drew out an American cigarette and began puffing furiously, jumping up occasionally to gaze unhappily down at the strategic peaks of the Paghman Hills below — a noted rebel stronghold.

"From the moment that we cross the border from the Soviet Union we are looking for Stingers. Although the rebels say they will not fire on civilian planes you can never be sure," he explained to passengers, including a small group of Western newsmen on a trip scheduled five months ago but postponed due to the worsening security situation.

The Afghan cabin crew did little to hide their anxiety and two members said that they would never fly in the Soviet-built Antonov 26, the work-horse of the badly-hit internal Afghan airline system, five of which have already been brought down this year at a cost of more than 150 lives.

The steep descent, accompanied by white puffs of smoke from a barrage of flares fired at the rate of one a second to try to deflect any of the heat-seeking Stingers, became more uncomfortable as the Afghan pilot announced a sudden delay of 10 minutes, which would have to be spent circling, because of the "pressure of flights".

"That means a military operation is taking place, but he cannot say so openly," explained Ahmed from his vantage point gazing through a left-hand window and still smoking nervously.

"The bump you just felt was from the pressure of a fighter flying too close below us. We know these things, because unfortunately we have to deal with them every day." The Afghan air hostess sitting close to him, apparently for moral support, made no bones about her desire to join an uncle living in London.

When the plane eventually landed (having first almost cut its engines to steady the rapid approach), it was only a few hundred yards along the run-

way when we passed the wreckage of one Antonov 26 with military markings, apparently brought down by a Stinger some weeks earlier. "I am afraid I cannot tell you anything about that," said Ahmed, suddenly becoming much less forthcoming.

It is the severity of the air war which is given much of the credit by diplomats here for the increasing readiness of the Kremlin to talk about withdrawal, and to reduce its timetable for a complete pull-out to the current official offer of one year.

As well as boosting the morale of the guerrillas and causing grave concern to Soviet military commanders, the effectiveness of the deadly Stingers and the less effective, but still deadly British-made Blowpipe missiles, has caused a switch in Soviet tactics.

Increased bombardment by artillery and heavy ground-to-ground rockets are replacing air bombing, strafing by helicopter gunships (which still line the ground at Kabul airport in scores) and helicopter-borne assaults.

Western officials also explained that Soviet and Afghan warplanes which used to support ground troops from heights of 2,000 to 4,000 feet are now doing so from 10,000 feet, reducing greatly the accuracy of their bombing and forcing the helicopter gunships providing ground cover to fly lower, making them more vulnerable to the Mujahidin.

US government sources claim that in recent months the Soviet and Afghan forces have been losing aircraft and helicopters at the rate of one a day, a figure that is impossible to confirm officially.

But even if exaggerated for political purposes, the blanket of white smoke puffs from the flares covering the bright blue sky over Kabul yesterday was evidence of the heavy pressure which the guerrillas are now able to impose. A senior Afghan official told *The Times* that whenever it was possible, flights were being made under cover of darkness.

The heavy aerial operation underway yesterday, plus reported ground actions, were said by Western sources to be part of a determined Soviet and Afghan effort to deter any rebel efforts to disrupt the *loye jirga* (great assembly) which opens here on Sunday to elect a new president and vote on a new constitution.

Boston — Since the withdrawal of Mr Gary Hart there has been no front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. But Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts stands as good a chance as anyone now in the race.

When I last talked to him a year ago he was contemplating running. This week I was speaking to a declared candidate who is expected to do reasonably well in the Iowa caucuses and to win the first primary in New Hampshire.

Whether that could be a springboard towards the nomination will depend largely on his performance on Super Tuesday in early March when most of the Southern states will hold their primaries.

Governor Dukakis likes to invoke the memory of the last President from Massachusetts. But he is not a second John Kennedy.

He will not win a charisma contest

When I went campaigning with him in two small New Hampshire towns, I was struck by his ease of manner in these homely settings. He was comfortable with local voters. But if the presidential race of 1988 turns into a contest in charisma, Mr Dukakis will not be the winner.

What he offers instead is managerial competence. In most years this would not be enough. In the present political atmosphere there is a greater chance that it is the quality for which the American people will be looking. But does he have the broader range required to move from being a successful state governor to President of the United States?

I find it hard to accept that he has really been a close student of international affairs for many years. He floundered appallingly a few days ago when questioned in a television programme on American policy towards China and Sino-Soviet relations.

But he is studying the issue. I questioned him particularly on what a Dukakis presidency would mean for Europe, and could not have received more explicit assurances on keeping American troops there. "There has got to be a continued, strong, United States presence in Western Europe," he declared unequivocally.

He would not allow that commitment to be weakened by statutory pressures. Nor would he accept any agreement on conventional forces with the Soviet Union that left the United States without a substantial contingent in Europe.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

These commitments were all the more significant because he would squeeze defence spending in general and is eager for a range of disarmament agreements with the Soviet Union. Defence expenditure would at most maintain its present level in real terms.

There were moments during his campaigning when I thought he might be verging on utopianism towards the Soviet Union. But in his conversation with me he was firm that he would move carefully step by step on disarmament.

Defence spending would be squeezed

insisting on adequate verification and full consultation with allies each time.

Although he was enthusiastic in his support for an INF treaty, he would not pledge to first use of nuclear weapons. That would prevent American nuclear capability countering superior Soviet conventional forces in Europe. "No early use" was the formula with which he wisely stuck.

This tension between idealism and realism was evident in his approach to economic and social policy as well. He has the instinct of a traditional liberal Democrat. He spoke with sudden passion while campaigning when referring to housing and the homeless. But he would intend to cut the budget deficit in real terms year by year.

I have the impression of a pragmatist who is extending his preparation for the presidency as he studies one problem after another. He is unquestionably more equipped for domestic than foreign policy. But while he would not bring a wide international background to the White House, he would start with the belief that the President of the United States ought to be an internationalist.

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Police to Eta suspect

The Spanish police are investigating the possibility that the Basque separatist group Eta is responsible for the recent attacks in the Basque Country. The police are looking for evidence to link Eta to the attacks, which have caused significant damage and loss of life. The police are also investigating the possibility that Eta is planning further attacks in the region.

Kremlin m avoid civil

The Kremlin is trying to avoid a civil war in the Soviet Union. The Soviet government is taking steps to prevent the country from falling into the hands of the separatist forces. The government is also trying to maintain control over the various republics and provinces of the Soviet Union. The Kremlin is aware of the growing tensions between the different groups and is working to resolve them peacefully.



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Police deliver blow to Eta as arms and suspects are seized

Twelve suspected members of the Spanish Basque armed separatist group Eta were held in the San Sebastián region yesterday after a swoop by 1,000 Civil Guards.

The paramilitary force also raided nine flats used by the organization in several surrounding towns and seized arms, including grenades, the "goma 2" explosive Eta habitually uses, and ammunition.

The chief arrest was of José López Ruiz, known as "Kubati", a 34-year-old Eta leader accused by the Spanish police of heading the commando which assassinated General Rafael Garrido, military Governor of the Guipúzcoa region, and his wife in San Sebastián in October last year. He was also accused of the "revenge killing", one month earlier, of Dolores González ("Yoyes"), who was once Eta's most prominent woman member for having accepted the Socialist Government's terms for returning to normal life.

The operation was based on analysis of documents giving details of Eta's structure. The papers were found when French police arrested Santiago Arospeide ("Santi Potros"), chief of Eta's military

From Richard Wigg, Madrid
wing operational commandos, on September 30.

The successive blows against Eta in raids and the seizure of members in Madrid, Barcelona, Navarra and San Sebastián, have convinced Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, that the organization's days of violence are numbered.

Eta may still, he believes, be able to stage what he calls anarchic reactions to a constant police offensive, but it now lacks a sufficiently permanent structure to enable it to challenge the state.

Kubati was arrested while he was in a telephone box apparently trying to alert colleagues.

Police accuse him of crimes going back to 1979. They include the killing of a Basque businessman, nine attacks on Civil Guard barracks and the shooting of a Civil Guard corporal outside a bar at the beginning of this month.

The importance of French collaboration for Madrid was also underlined by the handing over to Spain yesterday of Francisco Imaz, aged 28, presumed head of the so-called autonomous anti-capital commandos, an Eta splinter group

blamed for a long series of crimes but sought above all for the assassination in February 1984 of Senator Enrique Casas, then Socialist Party leader in San Sebastián.

Aides of the Prime Minister in the Basque countries insist that the Government's strategy must now take advantage of the security forces having clearly got the upper hand, and of a change in Basque public opinion, to force Eta's leaders to grasp that the only way out for them must be to stop the killings and negotiate their return to normal life.

But Señor González remains publicly adamant that there can be no generalized pardon for Eta members personally responsible for blood crimes.

The detention of the presumed killer of "Yoyes" is another significant step in Madrid's "psychological war" to isolate Eta from its sympathizers in the Basque country. Her family recently published extracts from a diary she kept which show movingly how she came to see Eta not as an aid, but a cruel impediment to the realization of the Basque people's wishes.

Shoppers buy a breath of fresh air in Tokyo



Customers at a Tokyo store inhaling oxygen through wine-glass-shaped masks at the shop's "Oxygen Bar". Three minutes of regular, mint or coffee-flavoured oxygen costs about 40p and business is booming in the polluted Japanese capital.

French students protest at 'miserly' funding

From Philip Jacobson
Paris

Under grey skies and a chilling drizzle, a few thousand students took to the streets of Paris yesterday to protest against "miserly" government financing of universities.

Exactly a year after much larger student demonstrations gave way to several days of violent clashes with the Paris

police, a march on the National Assembly set off behind banners demanding *de fric pour nos facs* (" dough for our faculties").

As the demonstrators gathered in the Place d'Italie, the university students were joined by secondary school pupils protesting about primitive conditions, overcrowded classes and lack of teaching staff.

There was no sign of a

special police presence, that is the much feared riot squads. The protest organizers, mainly from groups associated with the Communist Party, had emphasized that official stewards would deter would-be trouble-makers.

At the heart of the university students' grievances is the steady decline in funding from central Government. Recent studies show that France now

spends proportionately less on university education than any other industrialized nation.

The number of French school leavers seeking entry to university may double soon after the year 2,000. To cope with such an influx, educational specialists claim that another 2,300 teachers would be needed, not to mention many new universities.

200 die in Luzon typhoon disaster

Manila — Typhoon Nina hit the east Philippines coast yesterday and was reported to have killed up to 200 people and made thousands homeless. The typhoon swept fishing villages in Luzon island.

Party purge

Vienna (Reuters) — The Communist Party secretary of Dolj county in south-west Romania and other officials have been sacked, just 11 days after the Brasov riots.

Swedish move

Stockholm (Reuters) — A Swedish court has dropped proceedings against a Soviet defector who crashed his hijacked plane in the Baltic.

Hostage freed

Beirut (Reuters) — Gunmen freed Lebanon's youngest kidnap victim, Bashir Husam Samadi, aged 7, one day after he was seized.

Empty coffers

Belgrade (Reuters) — More than 200,000 Yugoslavs received no pension because the state pension fund is empty.

Correction

Anatolia is the whole of Turkey in Asia, not a Turkish province, as stated in a report from Konya on November 23.

Soviet price reform

Kremlin moves to avoid civil unrest

By Mary Dejevsky

A top-level committee in the Soviet Union is currently examining the sensitive question of how to reform the country's obsolete pricing system without provoking the sort of civil unrest that has accompanied price rises in Eastern Europe.

Details of the committee's work were outlined to *The Times* by one of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's most senior economic advisers, who is visiting Britain at the invitation of the British Academy.

Professor Abel Aganbegyan, who heads the Institute of Economics at the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow, said that a revamped Committee on Prices had been entrusted with the task of updating the country's pricing system to bring it more into line with systems operating elsewhere in the world.

In the Soviet Union, many items — such as housing and staple foods — have barely risen in price since the 1920s and 1930s and are far cheaper than in the West. But clothes and consumer durables are often more expensive, both in actual cost and as a proportion of average income. The long-term aim, Professor Aganbegyan said, was to make the rouble convertible, although he conceded that this was a distant prospect.

The Committee on Prices brings together representatives of the Finance Ministry, the State Planning Committee (Gosplan), and advisers from the Institute of Economics.

According to Professor Aganbegyan, it is reviewing every aspect of the country's

financial system — wages, pensions, allowances, wholesale and retail prices, and banking — in order to recommend a fully integrated set of reforms that will not unbalance the economy.

The committee began its work shortly after the Communist Party Central Committee plenum in June, when the subject of prices first came in for official scrutiny, and has to report before the end of 1989. If all goes to plan, its proposals will be published and open to public discussion before being incorporated in the next five-year plan in 1990.

The prospect of price reform is contemplated with terror by many people who are convinced that reform means only one thing: huge price rises.

But Professor Aganbegyan insists that people have little to fear. The committee must work on the assumption that average living standards must not fall as a result of any changes, he says. Any reform must build in safeguards — increased pensions and benefits and cheaper consumer goods — so that no one loses, except those who can afford to pay more for higher quality.

He argues that, although many prices have been kept artificially low for decades, this has actually benefited the better off. The large state subsidies on bread, meat, and dairy produce, he says, mean simply that those who can afford to buy most enjoy the highest subsidy.

Professor Aganbegyan also claims, from his own experience, that many people are able and willing to pay more for something better.

As a well-paid economist with considerable royalties from his many publications, he says he would be prepared to pay two or three times more than the 12 per cent income tax he is required to pay.

He would also welcome the chance to buy himself accommodation. But there is nothing better available — at least not any that money can buy. Only a word with the right people would be any use.

The Challenge: Economics of Perestroika, Professor Aganbegyan, Hutchinson, £20 hardback, £8.95 paperback. English publication in the new year.



Professor Aganbegyan: Says subsidies benefit better-off.

U-turn on austerity in Greece

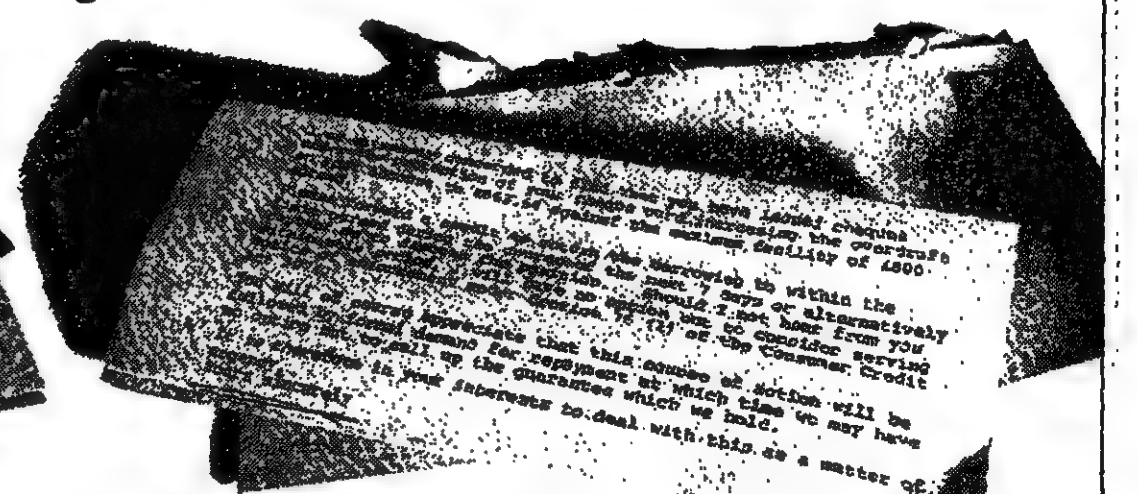
From Mario Modiano
Athens

Greece's Socialist Government suffered a blow yesterday when Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, prompted the resignation of Mr Costas Simitis, his National Economy Minister, by abruptly reversing a Cabinet decision taken 24 hours earlier to continue a tight-fisted economic policy.

Mr Simitis, architect of the Government's austerity policy which imposed a virtual wage freeze after October, 1985, had just announced the Cabinet's resolve not to relax its tight incomes policy until May. Mr Papandreu, speaking in Parliament after tabling the state budget for 1988, said he was authorizing index-linked salary increases from January 1.

The Prime Minister replaced Mr Simitis with Mr Panayotis Roumeliotis, the Trade Minister.

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Constitutional crisis in Queensland

Deposed Sir Joh refuses to quit his post

By Our Foreign Staff

Queensland is facing a constitutional crisis with Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the state's Premier, refusing to resign, despite having been sacked and replaced as leader of the ruling National Party.

Yesterday's coup was the consequence of a rebellion which has been building for months against Sir Joh — the most durable and most arch-conservative of Australian political leaders — among once loyal followers who believe that, at the age of 76, he finally should go.

For his part, Sir Joh is showing characteristic reluctance to relinquish the autocratic power he has wielded over Australia's "Deep North" for more than 19 years.

Yesterday witnessed an extraordinary sequence of political manoeuvring and intrigue. Firstly, Sir Joh called a Cabinet meeting, which lasted eight minutes, at which he declared that a party meeting called by the executive management committee and scheduled to follow — was illegal and that he was the only person who could call it.

The Cabinet meeting then broke up and ministers headed for the party meeting. Sir Joh was the only National Party member who did not attend the 48-member meeting, which duly accepted a

motion to declare the leadership open and then elected Mr Mike Ahern, the former Health Minister, the new leader. Mr Ahern had been sacked by Sir Joh on Tuesday, along with two other ministers.

Mr Ahern and his deputy, Mr Bill Gunn, the Deputy Premier, then went to see Sir Joh.

Sydney — The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, leaves today for an official visit to the Soviet Union aimed at strengthening economic and trade links between the two countries (Reuters reports).

Government officials said he will also ask Soviet leaders to relax their policy on Jewish emigration.

Walter Campbell, the State Governor, and asked him to withdraw Sir Joh's commission. This the Governor declined to do, and asked the two men to try to persuade Sir Joh to resign gracefully. When they failed to do this, the Governor said that the matter should be decided by Parliament.

Late yesterday a defiant Sir Joh said that he expected to chair next Monday's Cabinet meeting as Premier.

"I'll still be here next week at Cabinet on Monday morning," the Premier said. It was "unfortunate" that Mr

Ahern wanted his resignation by that day.

"I'm afraid we don't always get the things we like in this life. I did exactly what his Excellency asked me to do — that's to call the Parliament together," Sir Joh said.

These events left Queensland in the odd situation of having a Premier who was not the leader of the ruling party and a leader of the ruling party who was not the Premier.

The crisis started on Tuesday when Sir Joh, who had already said that he would step down next year, after completing 30 years as Premier, unexpectedly sacked three ministers. He then appointed two backbenchers and the Speaker of the House to replace the dismissed ministers, in the face of party opposition, particularly that of Sir Robert Sparkes, the National Party state president, who said after Wednesday's swearing-in of the new ministers: "It is likely to be the shortest ministry ever."

The signs are that the Premier is prepared to hold out until Parliament meets, probably next week. It would only need five National Party members to join the Liberal and Labor parties to defeat a vote of no-confidence in Sir Joh, and Mr Ahern and his supporters would find themselves in a perilous situation.



Sir Joh's Waterloo? Queensland's Premier in conquering mood only two months ago — but already members of his party, frustrated by his autocratic rule, were planning a coup.

Army imposes calm in run-up to Haiti voting

From Alan Tomlinson, Port au Prince

Troops patrolling the Haitian capital have brought a relative calm to the city for the first time in several days.

Trackloads of soldiers patrolled the deserted streets on Wednesday night, firing occasional volleys into the darkness. The bodies of four men with gunshot wounds were discovered at dawn.

It was the Army's first appearance in strength during weeks of pre-election violence which led on Tuesday night to crowds of private citizens forming vigilante groups to police their neighbourhoods and brutally killing four men.

The show of force followed an official warning to the population that vigilante acts would not be tolerated. A communiqué signed by the Interior Minister, Major-General Williams Regala, a member of the junta which has ruled Haiti for the past 23 months, reminded Haitians that "the maintenance of public order and security is the direct and exclusive duty of the armed forces".

The reminder was deeply ironic. The public, and in particular the candidates and officials taking part in this Sunday's general elections, have implored the Army for weeks to exercise just that prerogative.

Their appeals have gone unheeded and armed gangs opposed to the democratic process have gone unchallenged in repeated attacks on electoral headquarters and political offices. Buildings have been set on fire and innocent people slain at random.

"The Haitian Army has a long history of locking itself in the barracks while the city burns," one foreign diplomat ruefully observed.

But the extent of its recent indifference has convinced many Haitians that the Army privately supports the anti-election movement, despite public pledges to hand over

power to a civilian government in February.

The violence has eclipsed the race for the Presidency in which four contenders have emerged as the front runners in a confusing field of 23 candidates.

Two of them could be loosely described as populists: they are Mr Gerard Gourgue, a human rights activist representing a group of 57 left-inclined political organizations that appear to enjoy the support of politicized elements in the influential Roman Catholic Church, and a former Protestant pastor, Mr Sylvio Claude, a Christian Democrat who is believed to have strong support among the urban poor.

The other two leading candidates are centrists, Mr Marc Bazin, a lawyer and economist regarded as the American favourite, and a businessman, Mr Louis Dejoie, who has inherited the enduring popularity of his late father, the man who lost Haiti's last election 30 years ago, the François "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

The campaigns of these few inevitably have much in common, focusing on the colossal levels of unemployment, ill-health and ill-education which are the Duvalier legacy.

But experienced observers of Haitian politics believe it is not so much what candidates stand for that will win them votes but by how firmly they stand against the remnants of the old power structure. In this regard, Mr Gourgue and Mr Claude appear to have the edge for having opposed the dictatorship from within Haiti while Mr Bazin and Mr Dejoie have spent much of their lives in exile.

One of the few things observers here agree upon is that no candidate appears likely to win an outright majority on Sunday, leading to speculation that frantic coalition-forming may characterize the run-up to the second round next month.

Maori victory in land rights battle

From Richard Long, Wellington

Maori land rights activists gained an important victory yesterday when the Waitangi Tribunal recommended the return to the Maori people of an Auckland harbour headland that includes some of the most valuable real estate in New Zealand's largest city.

The Bastion Point headland and surrounding areas, comprising 280 acres, was the scene of a large protest in 1978 when police arrested 222 demonstrators after a 507-day occupation of the site.

This followed protests over nearly 150 years by the Ngati Whataua tribe, which maintained that the land had been taken illegally from their ancestors. The decision that the land should be returned, together with a \$NZ3 million (£1.1 million) endowment for tribal development, will give a big boost to others seeking to redress land grievances. One tribe is claiming ownership of much of the South Island.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, said he imagined the land would be returned to the tribe. He said he would be surprised if the Government differed with the tribunal over ownership of the land, much of which comprises public parks and reserves.

Mr Joe Hawke, the Ngati Whataua spokesman who led the occupation of the site in 1978 and who then, with others, took his grievance to the tribunal, said the decision should be implemented immediately by legislation.

Maori community leaders saw the finding as another historic step and compared it with the Appeal Court ruling earlier this year which prevented the Government from transferring Crown lands to corporate departments until outstanding Maori claims on the land had been settled.

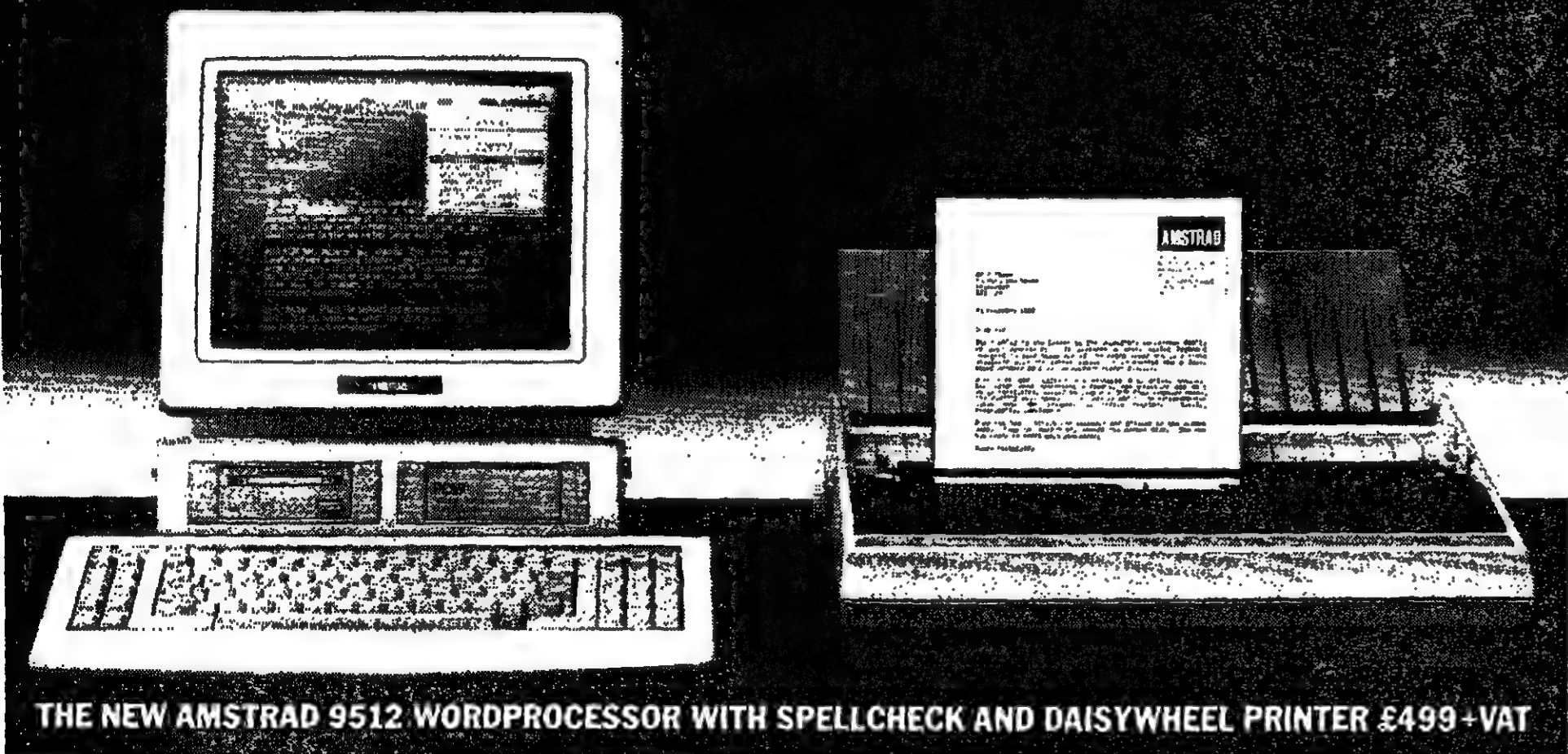
In its finding yesterday the tribunal said the Crown, through repeated and deliberate breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi, had rendered the Ngati Whataua people virtually landless and without standing in their own homeland.

The Waitangi Tribunal was established in 1975 to investigate Maori grievances and to apply the spirit of the Treaty of Waitangi to decisions.

Under the Treaty, signed by some Maori chiefs and the British Crown in 1840, the chiefs ceded sovereignty to the Crown in return for guaranteed ownership of their lands, forests and fisheries. But the Treaty was never ratified in New Zealand law and its provisions were largely pushed aside in the great land grab of the last century.

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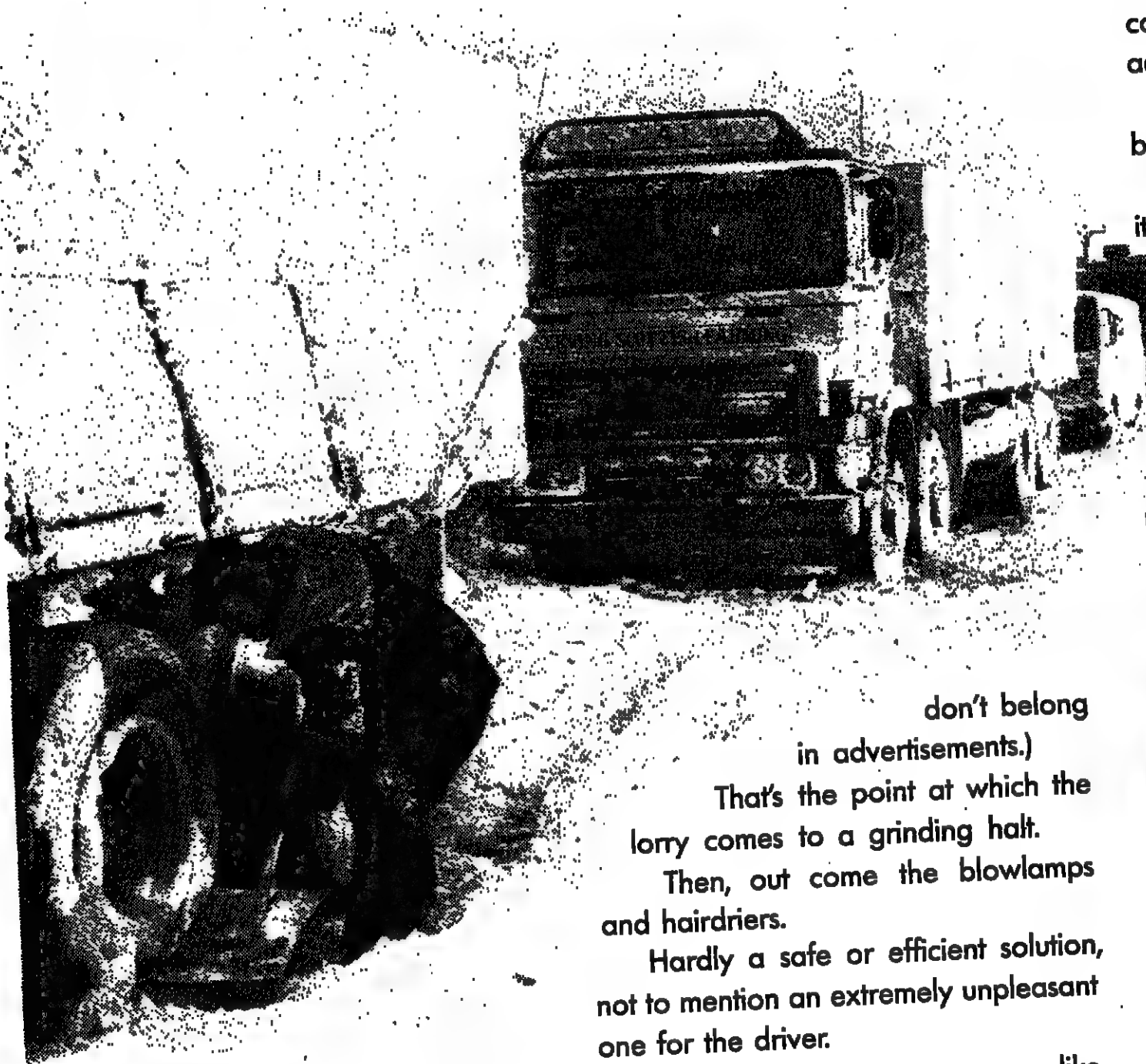


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This in spite of lessons learnt the hard way in previous hard winters (1986 for instance).

Nowhere was this more damaging than in the transport business, where everybody knows that ordinary diesel fuel 'freezes' in cold weather.

Thousands of truck drivers who'd innocently filled up with ordinary diesel fuel suddenly found themselves going nowhere fast.

When ordinary fuel starts to 'wax up' at just below 0°C (known as the Cloud Point), anxious eyes follow the thermometer's every movement.

At around -9°C, the wax particles are large enough to block a diesel engine's fuel filter.

(Politely known as the CFPP or 'Cold Filter Plugging Point', although more often referred to in terms which

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That's the point at which the lorry comes to a grinding halt.

Then, out come the blowlamps and hairdriers.

Hardly a safe or efficient solution, not to mention an extremely unpleasant one for the driver.

Thankfully, desperate measures like these won't be necessary this winter.

Because Mobil have produced a new diesel fuel which makes them as outdated as the starting handle.

The British Standard for all winter quality diesel fuel specifies a Cold Filter Plugging Point of -9°C.

Last year Mobil led the way by bringing this down to -15°C.

But even that wasn't enough to keep every truck moving.

So this season we have produced an improved version of our winter quality Mobil Diesel Plus.

With a Cloud Point of -5°C and CFPP of -18°C, it's more resistant to cold than ever.

And while we don't suffer such extremes of cold every day, getting it wrong just once is once too often. (As anyone who was stranded last winter will confirm.)

But what about winter additives? Can't they bring ordinary diesel

fuel up (or rather down) to the same standard as Mobil Diesel Plus?

In a word, no.

The performance of Mobil Diesel Plus is determined not just by additives, but at the refining stage. Indeed, it is quite impossible to lower the Cloud Point in any other way.

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And after all the hassle of adding them to your storage tank, there's no guarantee that they'll mix properly.

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The unique detergency of our fuel keeps injectors cleaner.

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And if all this sounds good in theory, it's even better in practice.

Our tests prove that engines running on Mobil produce significantly less exhaust smoke.

An improvement which will be appreciated by other road users, and also by your accountants.

It will show up just as clearly on the annual balance sheet because cleaner-running engines use less fuel.



In another test involving many different types of vehicle over a total distance of over 2 million miles, Mobil Diesel Plus was shown to improve fuel economy by an average of 4%.

That's a huge potential saving when spread over a large fleet.

What do all these benefits add up to? The complete, all-weather diesel fuel.

But for the moment, your most pressing concern is preparing for the winter that is almost upon us.

Will it be another winter you would rather forget? We're doing all we can to make sure it won't be.

Because as we at Mobil well know, when an engine dies, so can your business.

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Mobil Diesel Plus. Runs cleaner. Runs colder.

SPECTRUM

Danger in the darkness

Are our lighthouses still a boon to seafarers, or have advances in electronic navigation made them a quaint extravagance? Libby Purves reports on a bitter controversy

One of the world's busiest waterways, the English Channel, is a place where a navigational error measured in yards can be catastrophic. This autumn a Danish-run ship, sailing under the Singapore flag and carrying a cargo of chemicals, complained to Trinity House, the lighthouse authority, that a light buoy off the Sussex coast was one-and-a-half miles out of position.

A tender was sent to investigate. The light buoy was exactly where it had always been. It was the ship, equipped with sophisticated electronic navigation aids, which had got its position wrong.

Yet moves are afoot to do away with many lighthouses, light buoys and other visual aids to navigation, partly on the argument that electronic navigation systems have made them unnecessary.

British coastal waters, apart from being busy, are treacherous: sandbanks, reefs and rapid tides have always cost ships and lives. But down the centuries we have gradually belatedly learnt to strike lights and reflect them across distances, considerable ingenuity and devotion has gone into maintaining lighthouses, lightships, and flashing buoys. Our lights have been a source of pioneering pride: their past is romantic and illustrious.

Their future, however, is distinctly foggy, with the whole subject under review. In the business, factions are beginning to accuse one another of cynicism and anachronism, selfishness and profligacy.

Meanwhile, on the shore, baffled sentimentalists skim through brief press reports, only being galvanized into indignation if they recognize some "discontinued" lighthouse as being the friendly old striped tower of their childhood holidays. But this debate is not a sentimental one: it is about economics, safety margins, and what faith we should place in new technology.

Unlike most other nations, Britain does not pay for its lighthouses and buoyage out of general taxation. The money comes from light dues paid by commercial vessels, British and foreign, using our ports. "The user," the Government says, "should pay." The lights are administered by three bodies: Trinity House, for England and Wales; the Commissioners of Northern Lights, and Irish Lights (we share, and subsidize, the lights of the republic).

The authorities' expenditure (about £60 million a year) outstrips their income: this year, when Trinity House took over the management of the Decca chain of electronic

beacons, light dues rose by 14 per cent. Shipowners were angry. They have an ancient grievance, which is that neither fishermen nor yachtsmen pay light dues, but expensive light-houses and lit buoys are useful to fishermen and yachts, while big ships rely increasingly on electronics. Earlier this year, it was decided that bigger fishing-boats must pay light dues; now fishermen protest that yachts and the Navy are exempt (though the Navy contributes to Decca). Clearly, not all the users are paying.

While all this unrest was brewing, various reports came out one suggested cutting the number of maintenance ships — the tenders — run by Trinity House; the Government's Kelly report proposed losing some lights; and Trinity House brought forward the announcement of its own cuts and redundancies, including one of its four remaining tenders, five lighthouses and 79 other aids. The "elder brethren" of Trinity House were partly goaded into this by the publicity in June surrounding the most controversial report of all: the one commissioned by the General Council of British Shipping — the shipowners — and written by Dr John Strange, a polytechnic transport lecturer. Strange's brief was to study the navigational needs of a modern commercial ship plying between Portland Bill and the Thames Estuary: 250 miles of jagged coastline including the busiest waterway in the world, the Dover Strait. He returned from his journey with the view that of the 80 navigational aids provided by Trinity House, 60 were unnecessary. These included lighthouses at Dungeness, Beachy Head, and the Needles.

The shipowners were delighted by the confirmation that their money was being spent on things they did not need. Stewart Conacher, the secretary of their Lights Advisory Committee, puts it bluntly: "Any ship with Decca and radar can navigate with minimal use of visual aids. Lighthouses are largely an anachronism."

Commander Bill Anderson, of the Royal Yachting Association, calls the report "an own-goal by the shipowners. It carries no authority. Their sole mission in life is to pay less money. Saying that light-houses are an anachronism is the view of shipowners, not of those who actually go to sea."

Inshore boatmen fear the loss of their familiar sure lights and foghorns. Jim Gibson, a Scottish creel fisherman, mourns a recent closure: "We've got no radar, and I really miss the horn. Getting in close by the cliffs in fog has always been tricky. It would be criminal if it took a drowning to get it put back on."

'Any ship with Decca and radar can navigate. Lighthouses are largely an anachronism'

Stewart Conacher



Keeper of the flame: Richard Davis, coxswain of the Cromer lifeboat, dreads an unlit future

A merchant captain says bitterly: "The owners would rather listen to the accountant than to us. Electronic systems can be misread: all right, it doesn't happen often, but I like to see something outside the ship. It'll be a lonely thing if the lights start to go."

He, to be fair, was a man in his 50s, entitled to be wary of an electronic future. Commander Anderson says that it is the older yachtsmen who "fear the dark coast and the electronic bleep. Younger people, who work all day with computers, are more at home with the idea of electronics."

Certainly, cut-price Decca

receivers were the bestsellers of the 1987 Boat Show: one yacht in 10 now carries one. But the image of the computer-happy floating yuppie is not one which cuts much mustard with coxswain Richard Davis of the Cromer lifeboat, in Norfolk. "Decca breaks down, the same as anything else," he says. He is faced with the imminent loss of both the Happisburgh lighthouse and the Haisbro lightship, which guards the sandbank. "It's a black old piece of coast," he says. "Flat. You can't see any village lights because of the flood wall."

Trinity House, which con-

sults with the RNLI, is going to increase the power of Cromer lighthouse before it shuts Happisburgh, but Davis says: "You can't see Cromer from Haisbro. Can't someone spare us the price of a light-bulb?"

Commander Richard Woodman, one of Trinity House's senior tender captains, is deeply unhappy about the implications of the Strange report. "It is our duty to mark dangers for all vessels. Perhaps we should have revised things earlier, but unless we want a coastline covered in wrecks and corpses again, we have to be very careful how far

down the road of electronics we go. The marine environment is salty and violent: it isn't like installing computers in a dry, dust-free spacecraft."

Captain David Orr, head of Navigational Requirements at Trinity House, says: "We have to err on the side of caution. We are a long-established organization which thinks that only the best will do for the mariner."

Stewart Conacher is a little impatient with these attitudes. "The lighthouse authorities take it on themselves to be responsible for the safety of anyone who chooses to go to sea," he says. "That's not their job under the Merchant Shipping Act. They should just provide what merchant ships need. Anyway, it's absurd to suppose that large numbers of traditional aids are going to make an incompetent mariner into a competent one."

Commander Woodman finds this stricture ironic. He recently worked for a year in the Dover Strait and claims that the merchant fleet's competence has declined during the electronic revolution. "Ships in wrong lanes and near-misses are monotonously regular. I have heard ships in the North Sea actually asking others where they are. I suspect that Dr Strange hasn't been at sea regularly for some time... he may not know what market forces have done to downgrade the safety of ships. And electronic navigation can suffer from certain inaccuracies at sunset."

'Unless we want coasts covered in wrecks and corpses again, we have to be very careful'

Commander Woodman

The Government and the elders of Trinity House have spent the last two months in repeated negotiations about the future. Meanwhile, the current round of cuts will take place between now and the spring, and behind the scenes battles will rage over the next round, and the next. The shipowners expect to tangle with yachtsmen: "They may not pay, but they're powerful," said one. "There are more yachtsmen than shipowners inside the House of Commons." Lord Brabazon of Tara, the minister at the DoT, cites the International Convention, which binds us to provide aids at sea "for all who need them" but says it is impractical to find a way of charging yachtsmen.

It has been calculated that if yachtsmen were charged £5 per head — the price of a stainless steel shack — £30 million could be raised (half the total light bill). And ironically, quite a lot of yachtsmen actually want to pay. One expressed it thus: "I pay a thousand a year for my marina berth. I'd gladly pay £200 more to keep lights like Dungeness open and the Thames Estuary safe. Not just for me, but for big ships. After all, the evidence that came out at the Herald of Free Enterprise inquiry didn't make me feel that either the DoT or the big ship operators are the best people in the world to judge safety margins."

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Old network meets again

Last night graduates of the Foreign Office's former Arab language school attended a reunion dinner in London



Spy connection? Kim Philby, the defector and George Blake

Britain's so-called "spy school", set among the olive groves in the hills overlooking Beirut International Airport, may be a casualty of Lebanon's civil war, but it is not forgotten. Some of Britain's top diplomats have fond memories of their time spent there.

Last night 80 graduates of the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies (MECAS), the Foreign Office's former Arabic language school, attended a dinner at Lancaster House to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its founding at Shemlan, 15 miles east of Beirut.

The centre, which was finally forced to close in 1978, earned its reputation because of its association with Russian agents George Blake and Kim Philby.

The list of former pupils is interesting testimony to the theory that Foreign Office mandarins tend to be Arabists. It includes the present permanent under-secretary of the Foreign Office, Sir Patrick Wright, his predecessor, Sir Anthony Acland (now ambassador in Washington) and a host of leading envoys.

MECAS was originally conceived in 1941 when the fortunes of war in North Africa showed up Britain's grave lack of Arabic speakers. An internal Foreign Office memo suggests the next three years were taken up arguing about a site: Palestine might have offended the "Zionist lobby in Parliament", Syria the French; "the War Cabinet Office objected to Cairo, nobody thought much of Aden and Baghdad was not mentioned".

Despite the opposition, MECAS first opened its doors to 30 students in the Arab Hospice in Jerusalem. With the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in July 1946, British institutions in Palestine were considered vulnerable. MECAS moved temporarily to Trans-Jordan and finally, in September 1947, to Shemlan.

It quickly established a reputation for offering a thorough grounding not only in Arabic, but also the culture and politics of the Middle East. Pricked by the Treasury, it took in businessmen and

diplomats from other countries.

MECAS came to dominate Shemlan, economically and socially. Many of its 60 students a year stayed with local families.

Sir James Craig, a former director of studies, later Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, recalls: "It was a very happy place, very homogenous. It was near enough to Beirut for students to get down there from time to time, not too close that they'd be distracted."

Not everyone was delighted with the British presence. Sir James recalls a bomb exploding outside his office during the 1956 Suez crisis; no-one was hurt. Further temporary closures came with the Lebanese civil war in 1958, the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967 and the start of the "troubles" in 1976.

Observer correspondent Kim Philby was, indeed, a regular visitor in the early 1960s, but never actually a student. When arrested in 1961, master-spy George Blake was a student on secondment from the Foreign Office.

A Shemlan was on former Druze land taken over by Maronite Christians, leftist Druze leader Kamal Jumblatt had apparent good cause to spread the story that the school was a nest of spies. "When he became a Minister we seriously thought he was going to close us down," remembers Craig. However, he denies MECAS had any role in espionage. "There is an impression among Arabs that the British are devilish cunning at intelligence work. Jumblatt's idea got a hold in popular mythology."

Today, nearly a decade after the centre's final closure at Shemlan, there is talk of reviving the centre or something like it at the University of Amman in Jordan. A certain nostalgia is also the order of the day, which explains last night's dinner and the setting up of a MECAS graduate students' association, details of which are available from Gordon Kirby at the Foreign Office.

Andrew Lycett

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THE TIMES SATURDAY Books for Christmas



Peter Ackroyd



Victoria Glendinning



Woodrow Wyatt

One of the most significant of this year's books must be... by... This account of the late 18th and 19th centuries throws such a wholly new light upon the political and cultural life of the period that obliquely it illuminates our own... As for comedy I would select...

We're talking about pleasure today, not literary prize-worthiness, which is not always the same thing. My choice is... by... about following the Aborigines' pathways across Australia. A traveller's notebook — not really a novel, though it calls itself one...

First, the disgraceful and funny... by... which cruelly tears off the butterfly wings of her lovers, friends and acquaintances, leaving me thankful that I knew her but slightly. And the unpretentious... by... contains several surprises...

... fill in the gaps in your reading tomorrow with *The Times* critics' choice of the best Christmas books

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KINGS CROSS FIRE Public Inquiry

A preliminary meeting of the formal investigation into the Kings Cross fire will be held, before Mr. Desmond Fennell OBE QC, at 10.30 am on Wednesday 2 December 1987 in Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1.

Any persons, or their representatives, who were involved in the fire or who may have relevant information they wish to put before the investigation are invited to attend and should inform the Department of Transport in advance by telephoning 01-212 3434.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

CLASSICS

Did Euripides hiss? Many ancient literary critics, like many modern masters, thought that the sibilant s (Greek sigma) has undesirable tone qualities, and they considered the tragedian Euripides' use of it excessive. The line *εσσα σ' εσσις* in *Hellenus hosoi* (Medea 476: "I saved you, as every

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1424

- ACROSS
1 Not moving (6)
4 Tremble (6)
7 Rime (4)
8 Hail Mary (3,5)
9 Butcher's knife (7)
11 Become one (5)
12 Old Strand registry (8,5)
15 Minister's house (5)
16 Trapezoid (7)
20 Small wrist bones (8)
21 Jerusalem hill (4)
22 Make more intense (6)
23 Markham's goal (6)
- DOWN
1 Chores (7)
2 Abundant (5)
3 Run after (5)
4 Long journey (4)
5 Czech composer 1890-1959 (7)
6 Willing (5)
10 Sparkle (5)
11 Escort (5)
13 Banal (7)
14 Having died out (7)
15 Paired (5)
17 Skill (5)
18 Carry (5)
19 Islamic prayer call (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1423
ACROSS: 1 Cavity 4 Candid 9 Welfare 10 Rifle 11 Lass 12 Omniscious 14 Give-and-take 18 Habitat 19 Rope 22 Robes 24 Oblique 25 Throng 26 Tavern
DOWN: 1 Cow 2 Villa 3 Transient 5 Air 6 Defrock 7 Dressy 8 Recognition 11 Log 13 Inter Alia 15 Limber 16 Eve 17 Thirst 20 Pique 21 Vein 23 Sun

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

Greek knows"), where sigma occurs seven times, provoked parody as well as criticism. Mrs Elizabeth Craik, of the St Andrews University, has established a project which may have settled this 2,400-year-old controversy. Many modern scholars have de-

fended Euripides against his ancient critics, but research fellow Dr Diane Kasterley's computer analysis of the surviving plays of Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Sophocles and Euripides has shown that Euripides does indeed use sigma with exceptional frequency. Martin F. Smith

FORESTRY

A Swedish company has developed a novel way of collaring beetles. The beetle — *Hylobius abietis*, or Pine Weevil — causes widespread damage to newly planted conifer saplings by gnawing away at their bark. Many of the young trees die.

DDT is banned in Sweden and chemical sprays are often unacceptable on environmental grounds. The company, Teno AB, based at Norrköping, has come up with a collar made of polyethylene extruded in two layers. The collar is placed around the sapling when it is planted. The down-folded top section simply prevents beetles from climbing up on to the young tree. As a bonus, it keeps the plant warm, protects it against wind, and is biodegradable. Malcolm Smith

EGYPTOLOGY

Progress proceeds apace. In University College, London, is an enigmatic wooden box-like object.

Suggestions about its use have been made over the years — including some, no doubt, of a ritual purpose — but Egyptologist Rosalind Hall has at last cracked the puzzle. It is a New Kingdom rat trap, complete with entrance flap, presumably the sacred cats of ancient Egypt had become so pampered that they would no longer stoop to such mundane tasks, and technology had to be called in. John Ray

PUBLIC OPINION

Parents of children at secondary schools are on the whole satisfied with their off-spring's education, according to a MORI poll conducted for the *Reader's Digest*. By a margin of two to one, they are content with the amount of school discipline (52 per cent satisfied, against 26 per cent dissatisfied), and by a margin of six to one, they are happy with the overall standard of education. This does not mean, however, that there is no room for improvement: almost half the parents interviewed (48 per cent) said they would send their children to private school if they could afford it, while 42 per cent would not. Robert Worcester

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So when you buy a new Ford, don't forget, ask your dealer for Extra Cover.

It's the best safety net there is.



THE TIMES DIARY

Mortimer wheeler

The man who presided over the first expulsion of Labour's Militants has now found himself at the sharp end. It was Jim Mortimer who, in 1982, in his first speech to conference as general secretary, proposed that Militant Tendency's editorial board be ousted from the party. Now Mortimer is furious about allegations that his own constituency party is riddled with "militants". The London Labour Party has sent a report to Walworth Road alleging that around 40 members of the Bermondsey party are members of the proscribed organization. Mortimer fumes: "No charges have been put to anyone, and that clearly is improper and against natural justice. I am on the management committee of Bermondsey and the first I heard that a report had been forwarded to the headquarters of the party was when I read it in the local paper." In an uncanny echo of Peter Taft he is even using words like "witch hunt".

Late bloom

Although most people say you are as young as you feel, the gospel according to Teresa Gorman, MP, is that you are as young as your skin feels. The member for Bideford, who has spoken warmly of the youthful effect of hormone replacement therapy in the past, is I discover, chairman of a charity promoting its use by middle-aged women. Named after "a mythical, never-fading flower; a symbol of immortality and enduring beauty to the Greeks", the Amarant Trust operates from her London home. Mrs Gorman is better known for keeping her youth in the time-honoured fashion of fibbing about her age. Her birth certificate has conclusively proved that she is neither 46, nor yet 51 — but 56.

When honourable members sit down to eat in the Commons, they are now confronted by a notice reminding them that the cutlery and crockery is not theirs and must not be taken away. Was it not Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote: "The louder he talked of his honour, the faster we counted our spoons?"

Paid leave

Politicians should be wary of rhetoric. A young Palestinian has taken Israeli minister Yosef Shapira up on his statement on television that he would happily give Arabs £20,000 a head to leave the area. Bassem Abdel Fatah turned up outside government offices in Jerusalem with a note saying that he was off to America and would like the cash pronto. After the guards got over their surprise, the letter was duly passed on. London's Camden council would be proud of him.

Chat show

Divine inspiration having occasionally deserted Irish churchmen faced with television cameras, Californian tutors have been brought in to groom them in the art of smart answers. Fifteen priests, including the Bishop of Galway, the Most Rev Eamonn Casey, were yesterday subjected to a crash course in thought marshalling. The Rev Miles O'Brien-Riley, director of the Catholic Communications Centre in San Francisco, presided over the session, in which microphone-thrusting reporters launched on priests with poses like: "Should the Border Force be excommunicated?" Afterwards, the pupils watched their performances on video — and were consumed with giggles at the results. But O'Brien-Riley expects his Dublin stay to be short: apparently the Irish priests are already so well endowed with the gift of the gab that only minimal further coaching is required.

BARRY FANTONI



"At least she'll be able to afford to have her teeth looked at"

Freedom song

I have a dream: this Christmas the record charts will be headed by a song from Sir Richard Attenborough's *Crusade*. Whatever the film's merits, part of its soundtrack, "Nkosi Sikelele", the unofficial African National Anthem, is — though its lyrics elude me — a cracking tune. The only problem is that MCA, the record company producing the LP of the film, has no plans to release the song as a single. I hope it changes its mind, otherwise, let us be realistic, Max Bygrave's seasonal offering, "Daddy Don't Get Drunk Again: This Christmas", could end up top of the pops.

PHS

As Gorbachov announces a visit, Owen Seymour remembers the B&K show

Cool days in Britain for a cold war couple

Mikhail Gorbachov, whose forthcoming four-hour stop-over in London was announced by Mrs Thatcher yesterday, can expect a warmer welcome than was given to the last official visit by a Russian leader, 31 years ago. That was the 10-day tour by Bulganin, the prime minister, and Khrushchev, the party leader, in April 1956, now best remembered for the ill-fated dive by Commander Lionel "Buster" Crabbe off a Russian warship in Portsmouth harbour.

Applause was then "restrained", as *The Times* put it, when the Soviet convoy sped to Claridges from Victoria Station, following their greeting by the prime minister, Sir Anthony Eden. "A few cheered but others watched in silence while the Russians waved and smiled."

On their return to Moscow, the B and K of newspaper headlines expressed their general satisfaction with the success of the visit, despite the attempt of the Labour opposition to spoil it all. "We must tell you quite frankly," said Khrushchev on his return, "that some of the Labour leaders were definitely anti-Soviet." Almost equally disappointing was their failure to meet many of the "ordinary people" of Britain, despite trips outside London to, among other places, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Oxford.

It was not for another 14 months, however, that the most embarrassing aspect of their visit



Khrushchev and Bulganin applaud the press at Central Hall, London

came to light. It was then that the headless, handless body of the veteran retired naval frogman, Crabbe, was washed up in Portsmouth harbour, after what seems to have been an unauthorized expedition for British intelligence to examine the hull of the Soviet destroyer Smorzhskiy, which had escorted the cruiser carrying the Russians to this country.

By unfortunate coincidence at the start of this year the present government decided that the files on the Crabbe incident should be kept closed to the public until the year 2057 — suggesting that Britain still has good reason to

find the incident deeply embarrassing.

Time, though, was a great healer even in those days of spluttering cold war and mutual misunderstanding. Within three years, in 1959, Harold Macmillan, the late Lord Stockton, was in Moscow paying the first official visit by a Conservative prime minister and scoring a near-success through his impeccable feel for timing and diplomacy. His trip might have been a total success but for the mercurial Khrushchev — by then very much in charge at the Kremlin.

This will not be Gorbachov's first trip to Britain, of course. He

came here in December 1984 before his appointment as party general secretary — though already regarded as "the man most likely to..." This was the visit that led Mrs Thatcher to describe him as a man with whom the government could do business. It was also the visit which introduced his wife Raisa — a smartly dressed member of the Soviet intelligentsia — to the British public. Her contrast to Mrs Khrushchev perhaps mirrored most graphically the change in Russian lifestyles over the years.

Earlier this year Mrs Thatcher went to Moscow. It was an occasion from which many had expected much, following the disappointment of the Reykjavik summit between Gorbachov and President Reagan. In the event it was not a visit which produced much positive achievement. On the other hand it did confirm the burgeoning relationship between London and Moscow — as well as the good working relationship between the two leaders.

To some extent Britain's position between the superpowers has been diminished by their own improved ability to get on together. Still, the fact that Gorbachov is stopping here on his way to Washington for his much heralded summit is indicative of the continuing rapport between the two. To describe Anglo-Soviet relations as warm would be going too far — but "correct" would be doing them an injustice. But they are certainly far happier than they were in that spring of 1957.

Robin Oakley on the opposition's thinking on its chances in the next election

The working groups which Labour has now set up to revise the party's policies should take as their bedside reading this week the latest *Political Quarterly*. Devoted to the realignment of the left, academics and politicians set out to examine the prospects of Labour, on its own or in a deal with any other party, actually defeating the Conservatives in 1991.

Two themes recur. Is Labour's relationship with the unions a crucial handicap, and has the time come for an electoral deal between the anti-Conservative forces? If Labour is to eradicate the Alliance it must make changes so deep that it can achieve a major shift of allegiance in the electorate. There is no sign that changes of that magnitude are yet contemplated. But is there then any prospect of an alliance at least to see the Conservatives deprived of power in a hung parliament if Labour cannot take it for itself?

Professor Bernard Crick writes: "If Labour aspires to be a national, not just a regional, party again then proportional representation has positive attractions. We might never form a majority government, but the people are not likely to vote for one anyway. Yet we could be the dominant partner in a Lib-Lab coalition for a very long time."

Both the Liberals and Labour are clearly moving towards consumerist politics. Crick argues that common policies could be agreed between Labour and the Alliance on restoring the welfare state, local government and schools, the democratization of institutions, training and continuing education, reforming the tax structure and constitutional reform. Even if there is not a full pact, says Ben Pimlott, professor of politics at Birkbeck College, "the mood of the left and centre may now be sufficiently in harmony to make other kinds of initiative desirable."

Probably the bleakest assessment comes from Austin Mitchell, one of Neil Kinnock's front-bench colleagues. Labour, says Mitchell, is now an "under party" relegated to the peripheries of British life, representing a world that is passing. Bluntly, he warns, "We must now recognize that socialism is the language of the ghetto. Ours, Labour structures are lids on the ghetto, not a ladder out."

Mitchell reminds us that Labour had three tasks in the 1987 poll — recovering ground, shaking off the Alliance and eroding the Tory majority sufficiently to be able to win in a single stroke next time. It did none of those things. He now wants a deal in 20 seats or so on the promise the Alliance will



Labour: digging for victory or defeat in '91?

back Labour in confidence votes. Pacts, deals and alliances are in the minds of the thinkers. But will they be translated into anything practical before 1991? I still doubt if we have reached the age of the realignment of the left. There is an immense psychological barrier for Labour to cross in seeking a deal. As Pimlott points out, it would be an admission that it could no longer tackle the Tory party on equal terms.

Kinnock has shown no interest in proportional representation and yet, as the Liberal Michael Meadowcroft argues in his *Political Quarterly* contribution, PR would have to be the price for any deal. "Without a clear commitment to PR on the part of a potential coalition partner it is suicide for Liberals to announce in advance that they will only negotiate with one party."

The union link which no Labour theorist seems willing to contemplate casting off is a great barrier to any deal with the Alliance. The first generation of

Labour leaders to try would probably perish in the attempt. And what anyway would Labour stand to gain directly from the deal? It could ensure that the Tories lost a few seats to the Alliance. But Labour's return would be minimal.

Though the Liberals might gain up to a dozen Tory seats by withdrawal of a Labour candidate, there are no seats which Labour could expect to win by the withdrawal of a Liberal candidate. What is so conveniently forgotten is that while there may be a 53 per cent anti-Conservative majority there is, by the same argument, a 65 per cent anti-Labour majority. Without an Alliance candidate the Alliance vote would split more in the Tories' favour.

Bryan Gould, shadow trade and industry minister, has done Labour's sums. "There are only 38 seats where the Tory majority over the Liberals is smaller than the Labour vote, and only 28 where the defection of some Liberals to the Conservatives — the price the Liberals would have

to pay for a deal with Labour — would leave the Liberals with a realistic chance."

"If one then deducts genuine three-way marginals and seats where Labour controlled the local authority, in neither of which would it be realistic to expect Labour to withdraw, the number of Liberal gains at the expense of the Conservatives would be negligible. Labour would have suffered considerable political damage for the sake of inflicting the merest pin-prick on the Tories."

Labour may hope that the Alliance will wither, leaving the field to Kinnock. But the Alliance vote has not been a committed football-supporter style party allegiance. It has been largely a protest vote against the two major parties. So long as some kind of half-credible vehicle emerges from the merger talks the prospects are that the Alliance vote will revive and that the country will continue to be governed by a minority Conservative Party whose rivals are split and who have little prospect of getting together.

If there was no other sign of that then we should surely note the departure for the Royal Institute of British Architects of Bill Rodgers, a founding father of the SDP and one of the realists of British politics. In his contribution he concludes: "The 1987 election has probably postponed the realignment of British politics by a decade."

The odds remain on Mrs Thatcher in 1991.

Fleur de Villiers on the potency of growing share ownership by South African blacks

Trading sanctions for share stakes

merged with Anglo American to create the Sigma Corporation, later renamed Samcor, which built and marketed both Mazda and Ford products. By 1986, as disinvestment fever gripped the United States and Ford was threatened with state and municipal procurement boycotts, disinvestment began to seem the only option, a route already followed by 150 other US companies.

Some, like General Motors, sold out at bargain basement prices to local management which promptly, in a recession-hit economy, retrenched black workers, abrogated the Sullivan Code which required firms to enforce integrationist work practices, and reversed the policy of not selling to the South African government. Others simply closed down their plants and walked away, thus putting even more black workers out of jobs. A Ford pull-out would have meant the closure of Samcor and the loss of 4,000 jobs.

Faced with that option, the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa, which like most other black unions has tended to

adopt a position of doctrinaire hostility to share participation schemes, would appear to have had little choice. After endless negotiation a deal of labyrinthine complexity was struck which would enable Ford to remove its equity from South Africa, relieving pressure on the company from shareholders in the United States, but keeping its name on the South African roads and its workers at the assembly line. The deal is a triumph for common sense when counsels of despair maintain that there is little room or hope for constructive negotiation.

Other South African unions have been less realistic and have paid the price in open defiance by members tempted by the benefits of people's capitalism. When Coca-Cola cut direct ties with South Africa to become Amalgamated Beverage Industries it offered 11 million shares to its workforce and its small dealers. Despite union opposition, its offer was taken up by some 80 per cent of employees and dealers.

Disinvestment, however, is only one element in the growth of

black capitalism. In a recent move Shell offered ownership of 16 of its filling stations and workshops to the South African Bus and Taxi Association, an exclusively black organization. One of the most popular share flotations in recent months has been a joint venture by American and black entrepreneurs in a Disney World-type operation on the outskirts of Soweto. The share offer by Anglo American and De Beers, however, simply because of the conglomerate's enormous size, will set a new benchmark in the spread of black capitalism in South Africa.

Employers insist that the aim is not an attempt to undercut unions or blunt pressure for higher wages and better conditions. Share offers are not in lieu of higher wages but an attempt to convince black South Africans of the benefits of capital, to show them that money is a resource and not merely a reward. Socialism is attractive to people who — through the machinations of apartheid — have come to mistrust capital as a white man's privilege. The efforts being made by companies in South Africa to explode that view could have a far more profound effect on the future politics of the country than the slogans of the sanctioners. People with a direct share in South Africa's economy are unlikely to destroy it. Neither, however, can they long be denied a share in its government.

The author is a fellow of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

John Rae

Low horizons in Bakerland

The establishment of the City Technology Colleges is one of the more radical and imaginative of Mr Baker's educational reforms. The colleges, which will have direct financial support from central government, will break the local authorities' 85-year monopoly of public education. They will provide a choice of secondary school in inner-city areas where choice is most needed. The technological bias will help to cure the technophobia from which our education system has suffered from its inception. They will have a working partnership with local industry. As co-educational colleges they will explode the myth put about by headmistresses that girls will only tackle boyish subjects such as technology in single-sex schools.

For all these reasons I support the concept of the City Technology Colleges. I particularly welcome the prospect of the colleges striking a blow for equal opportunity by encouraging working-class children to believe that they can aim as high in career terms as the children of the middle class. A revolution in expectations is what the colleges should offer these inner-city pupils.

I was dismayed, therefore, to read the prospectus of the first City Technology College, which will open at Kingshurst in Birmingham next September. Under the heading "What sort of student is the college looking for?" it lists the jobs that the pupils will be expected to do when they leave.

"The students will be boys and girls who may find their futures in any of the following occupations: a secretary who will have to use modern technology and equipment; a supermarket assistant who will have to understand stock control methods; a worker in a large hotel or, indeed, in a motorway service station; a communications specialist, say at Pebble Mill; a worker in the motor industry dealing with automation; a clerk in a ticket office, perhaps at Birmingham International; an architect or engineer in local government; or a technician, a technologist or a scientist in industry."

When I read this list for the first time, I could have cried out aloud in my frustration. A secretary, a supermarket assistant, a clerk in a ticket office — what had happened to the revolution in expectations? I recognize that the City Technology Colleges intend "to attract pupils with a broad range of abilities", and that a major emphasis in the concept is "to give good teaching in technical subjects to the schoolchildren who do not currently even achieve one O level pass", a group that comprises nearly half of all school leavers. To enable these children to find jobs at all would be an improvement on the present situation. But the way in which the probable jobs are listed in the Kingshurst prospectus reflects all too accurately the modest expectations that characterize so many of our state schools. The assumption is that most

inner-city children will never be able to rise above the level of secretary and clerk. The few who become architects or engineers should not look further than a post in local government. As for that exclamation mark after "industry", what can it mean other than that a boy or girl who gets a job as a scientist in industry will have to be exceptional?

I have just returned from the United States, where the education system for all its limitations is not based on the premise that the majority will have to settle for modest achievement and humdrum jobs. Opportunity is in the air. It may be optimistic to believe that anyone with the ability and the ambition can reach the top, but that is a better educational philosophy than the pessimism that pervades the British system.

The Bronx High School of Science in New York, which Mr Baker himself visited only a few weeks ago, is selective but in other respects is not dissimilar to a City Technology College. I have spent a day with the students at Bronx Science and it was abundantly clear that they had not been encouraged to think in terms of being a secretary or a clerk in a ticket office. Many of these I spoke to were thinking in terms of Harvard or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In Britain, it is unthinkable that a new independent school, even one that aimed to attract all abilities, would list in Kingshurst's modest terms the careers that it anticipated for its pupils. The fee-paying middle-class parents would assume at the outset that their children would be encouraged to aim higher.

That is the clue to what has gone wrong in the Kingshurst prospectus. The author has not been able to step outside the class assumptions of British society. He has assumed that because these are working-class children they will have to set their sights low. The first City Technology College has generous industrial backers, and from all reports an excellent principal. I hope they will consider withdrawing the prospectus and re-writing this section in terms that reflect the sense of opportunity we associate with America.

"England isn't always going to be divided into officers and other ranks" says the young wife of Mr Chips in James Hilton's 1934 classic story of school life. How wrong she was. Fifty years on, the division is still with us, defeating the majority of children before they have a chance to discover what their talents are. The City Technology Colleges are one way of giving these children hope that opportunity is not a middle-class monopoly. It is crucial, therefore, that the colleges do not start with the assumption that their principal job is to educate children to fill the other ranks.

The author, Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation, was formerly headmaster of Westminster School.

however... Henry Stanhope

Aid a comrade at Christmas

I am appealing today on behalf of an old gentleman who is far away from home and needs your help. Separated for so long from family and friends, he is known to neighbours simply as Comrade Kim.

No, this is not another South Korean politician, but Mr Kim Philby, whose dedication to the work ethic forced him into voluntary exile 24 years ago — before England had won the World Cup or the TWA Roman had even been introduced. Behind him he left everything a man holds dear — a job on *The Observer*, a seat at Lord's, a string of women, the C of E...

Nine thousand bottles of vodka later, he sits in his Moscow flat, a pot of beluga caviar by his side, reflecting on what might have been. Even his hopes of a Nobel Peace Prize have, alas, not been fulfilled — just pipped at the post, as he puts it, by Mother Teresa.

The shoulders are more bent than they were. The hair, once Brucine black, is a fashionable Gorbachov grey. The figure which once bestrode the Foreign Office now shuffles through the snow on shaky legs. Two sticks support him, while Muscovite youths shout "watch it grandad" as a football narrowly misses his perestroika.

He wears thick glasses now to read *Izvestia*. The steely eyes which once could pick out an Insight hack the length of the Bolshoi theatre have been dimmed by many years of faithful scholarship — peering through the viewfinders of tiny cameras to record bulky Whitehall documents for posterity.

longs for the occasional glimpse of the *Morning Star*, to tell him the latest gossip in the NUM. Old copies are filed away in yellowing piles, behind the cardboard volumes of Stalin's *Diaries* and a dog-eared *Widened for '62*.

Kim Philby is in the twilight of his days now. As he buttons his Marx and Spencer cardigan against the Russian winter, he has one ambition to meet before night falls. He would like to see his old country once again.

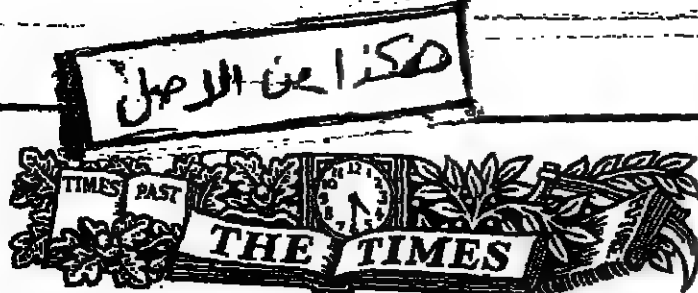
As the smell of his wife's rich bortsch mingles with the wood-smoke in his dacha, he still longs for the scent of an English country lane in late November — when a grey mist clings to the hedgerows and the soil is soft and twitching from last night's rain. He fancies he can hear a water vole — and a colony of rooks high in the oaks. There are crumpets for tea, and brown toasts — in the mind's eye of this hapless refugee.

But the immigration laws now tell against him. His passport has long expired, and the British embassy staff are most unhelpful. "Anyone would think I came from Bangladesh," he booms to anyone in earshot, as he hopelessly combs *Pravda's* late sporting edition for news of how the Light Blues did in the Boat Race.

Kim Philby would like to return here for a holiday. He fancies lunch at the Savoy Grill again and a shopping trip to Fortnum's in the morning, while a Salvation Army band outside plays carols in the cold. It's these little things of life he misses most.

But he is looking for a sponsor for his visit — and to pay for his first-class ticket with Aeroflot. He also needs some simple hospitality — roast turkey (with all the trimmings), plum pudding with brandy butter, a little vodka, some reasonable claret, a spot of Grand Marnier (Rouge), a hearth where he can warm his Church's slippers and a bed to sleep it all off on Boxing Day... He is searching for an English home from home.

So I ask you to search your hearts and pockets — and give generously to help this poor old gentleman, his pet of a dying breed who made Cambridge what it was between the wars. Invite Kim Philby to share your festive board this Christmas



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

DOCTORS WITHOUT NURSES

Health ministers must be feeling beleaguered. As well as the parliamentary noise yesterday over the Government's review of primary health care, attention has inevitably turned to David Barber, the Birmingham baby whose hole-in-the-heart operation was carried out only after five postponements, court cases and consequent national publicity.

This baby's chance of life has been jeopardized not by shortages of equipment or skilled surgical hands or beds in which he might recover. The shortage has been of the specially trained nurses who alone can care intensively for such a vulnerable patient.

David Barber is not the first patient to suffer from a lack of nursing talent, nor will he be the last. There is an absolute shortage of nurses in certain specialisms, including neo-natal care. However prompt the response of health authorities and politicians — and the Government must surely make some more active recognition of the problem than it has — it will take years to muster the required numbers.

It may be of some consolation to the Health Minister, Mr Tony Newton, that Conservative ministers in the 1950s and early 1960s faced a similar problem. He will note, however, that the means of their salvation — the entry into the NHS of large numbers of Commonwealth trainees — is no longer available.

That influx was followed by a demographic increase in the number of young women available for work. But the pool of young women with the type of qualifications from which the NHS needs to draw is now falling. In theory the NHS might take a larger share. But that prospect has to be set against the expansion of other opportunities for women as the structure of the economy changes.

The National Health Service has a problem here which cannot be safely ignored. For the sake of David Barber and the children and adults who may come after him, health ministers ought now to be contemplating a rapid response. They, and the Government as a whole, have much to lose by giving the appearance of complacency.

Next week the Royal College of Nursing will put forward its 1988 claim for nurses' pay. Ministers would have done well before then to have given the public a sense that they appreciate both the scale of the nursing manpower problem and the fact that it cannot be wished away by a single year's pay settlement, however generous.

What must be done? First, attempts must be made to pull back into nursing those qualified nurses who have left the job, either for domestic reasons or to go abroad. A patriotic appeal would only work if it were coupled with

a "returner's bonus" and some signal from the NHS that in the longer term the career and prospects of nurses are improving.

Secondly, hospitals have long lists of nurses who are leaving in their mid-20s. There is a growing gap between hospitals' projected needs for staff and the levels of recruitment into training. Health authorities need a much more active policy of marketing the job, especially to men and older people. The stereotype of a young woman nurse is all too prevalent still, and all too inappropriate as the population ages and the varieties of nursing proliferate.

Thirdly, the DHSS is going to have to build into its formula for distributing funds a better recognition of the cost of staffing and training in London. As long as London hospitals retain such a central role in training nurses for specialist functions then the London regions must be given the means to weight salaries more convincingly.

Fourthly, the Government should respond to the agenda laid down in the Project 2000 report from the United Kingdom Central Council. By itself that report, with its recommendations for upgrading nurse training, is insufficient. More flexibility is needed, more breaking down of outdated job categories. There are potentially areas of work in hospital wards that require less skill than nursing but more than can be expected of cleaning and catering staff.

The report does not tackle the question of a career structure that will retain nurses on wards while lifting their pay along with their performance and responsibility. The National Union of Public Employees might not like it but the rewards of different grades and types of nursing will have to become more differentiated. There would be more theatre nurses in post now if their training had been recognized by such pay increments.

Finally, the NHS should not have to face this problem alone. Private hospitals have benefited by attracting trained nurses who seek higher rewards and better working conditions. The private sector cannot free itself either from general shortages in specialist nurses or from making a financial contribution to alleviating the position.

Sooner or later nursing in Britain has to head down a road already signposted by the Royal College of Nursing. This is towards "professionalization" based, more or less, on training to degree standard. Such a move would bring Britain into line with other countries. It would give nursing that attractiveness so necessary if, during the decade to come, life-threatening shortages on display this week are to be avoided.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS

The arrangements for inspecting American missile sites in Britain, as disclosed last night, graphically illustrate the extent to which the forthcoming treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) has broken new ground. The regime, under which up to 20 Soviet experts at a time may pay surprise visits to Greenham Common and Molesworth until the year 2001, would have seemed an impossible goal a decade ago.

On-site inspection to monitor arms control has long been a Western demand, which was accepted by Soviet negotiators only recently. They first acknowledged the need for it in the context of the talks on chemical weapons — but this is the first time that a monitoring programme of such detail and complexity has been agreed.

As they affect this country, the arrangements seem satisfactory. Only the two cruise missile sites will be open to the Soviet inspection team, which will be chosen from 200 previously named individuals. It may not be possible to stop those all being employees of the KGB; but at least it will be known which KGB employees they are.

Britain will have a right of veto over final team membership. British as well as American officials will accompany them on their tour. The intrusion is designed to be disciplined and to build, rather than erode, mutual confidence.

The greatest American gain in the negotiations was probably the right to monitor the SS-25 missile launcher plant at Votinsk. The objective is to deter the conversion of long-range SS-25s into banned INF SS-20s, by simply lopping off a rocket stage. If the Soviet

Union was really anxious to circumvent the terms of the agreement, it could do so. No verification procedures can be watertight but this treaty sets what are undeniably new standards.

The history of Soviet compliance to arms control treaties has been unsatisfactory. In the years following the signing of Salt-1 in 1972, they tended — to put it most charitably — to be working to the letter of the agreement rather than its spirit. As the letter of the agreement was sometimes not all that clear, this allowed plenty of scope for interpretation.

After the ill-starred Salt-2 agreement, a growing number of complaints from Washington about deliberate Soviet cheating led to a suspicion that the process had broken down. Experience has taught those involved that the only truly worthwhile arms agreements will be those which are very tightly drafted and backed up by comprehensive verification procedures. The INF treaty, which is set to be signed at next month's summit, is the most searching test to date of this philosophy.

There are still loopholes. One is the failure to provide for inspection of potential but undeclared INF sites; it is arguable that Soviet inspectors should be allowed to visit other American bases in Britain and vice versa. On the positive side, the steady improvements in satellite technology and, particularly, the development of electronic satellites should provide a continual overview of superpower territory. The installation of permanent cameras at missile plants and the addition of sliding roofs at SS-25 bases should help to reassure the military men on both sides.

BUILDING TO RENT

The announcement earlier this week that the Nationwide Anglia Building Society is to set up a new company to invest up to £600 million in private rented housing is to be welcomed. It will be especially welcome to the Government, coming, as it does, in the week after publication of the Housing Bill. One of the prime purposes of that Bill is precisely to promote the revival of private rented accommodation.

This latest piece of legislation is part of a developing policy to reduce more of the controls on rents. In the years since the war the private rented sector in Britain almost disappeared because of successive tightening of rent controls which drove landlords out of business — both the bad and the good.

Young people or families needing temporary accommodation have consequently found it increasingly difficult to find anywhere. This has helped to discourage displaced workers moving to find a job. While the increase in owner occupation has been highly desirable a healthy housing market should provide a choice of tenure to match the varying needs of householders.

The Bill is not, in fact, essential to the Nationwide initiative which was devised before its contents were known. But the company's aims are very much in its spirit. Most of the new building which Nationwide will undertake, and also much of the refurbishment, will be done under the Assured Tenancy

scheme which has been the Government's spearhead in the drive to deregulation. This allows developers to build or refurbish outside the provisions of the rent Acts. Thus it supplies the missing incentive to satisfy demand for quality housing at market rents.

Some of the rest will be let on short-term tenancies which are also outside the scope of the rent Acts and are specially designed for mobile workers wanting temporary accommodation. How much will be new property and how much existing depends partly on market conditions but it could be 50-50. The company plans to provide both up-market accommodation for professionals and less luxurious property in partnership with local authorities. Inner-city areas in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Liverpool, Newcastle and eventually London will be among the beneficiaries.

This is just the kind of influx of private capital which the Government is hoping to encourage. There is, however, a large unresolved question on which ministers have so far been less than explicit. This is the potential public spending cost of additional housing benefit payable to poorer tenants taking tenancies at market rents rather than controlled rents. How large this cost may be and how quickly it may develop are difficult to forecast, but it is an issue which cannot be side-stepped for much longer if future initiatives are to be made with confidence.

Life insurance and risk of Aids

From the Chief Executive of the Association of British Insurers
Sir, In his article published on November 24 Wesley Gryk accepts that the majority (in fact the vast majority) of those contracting Aids in Britain up to now have been male homosexuals. He then claims that insurance underwriting decisions cannot logically be justified solely on the basis of an individual's purported sexual orientation.

Insurance companies operate on the basic principle that high-risk groups should pay more for their cover. This applies to motor and life insurance just as much as to fire insurance: in extreme cases, the risk presented may not be insurable. Quite simply, this enables companies to fulfil their overriding obligation to be prudent with the funds entrusted to them by the policyholders and to maintain their solvency, which is closely supervised by the Department of Trade and Industry under the Insurance Companies Act.

At the moment Government statistics show that the incidence of Aids is much higher among homosexual and bisexual males than in any other identifiable group. While this position continues, insurance companies need to ask questions enabling them to identify applicants belonging to this particular high-risk group. Further questions can then be asked to establish whether they, as individuals, are an acceptable risk. Yours faithfully,
M. A. JONES, Chief Executive,
Association of British Insurers,
Aldermar House,
Queen Street, EC4.

From Mr Trevor Pearcey
Sir, Wesley Gryk's article highlights the current discriminatory policy of insurance companies towards homosexuals. Over the past year the number of inquiries to the Terence Higgins Trust on insurance matters has noticeably increased as insurers have intensified their efforts to identify homosexuals among applicants for life insurance on the assumption that they belong to a high-risk category requiring special consideration.

In fact, a homosexual man practising safe sex is less likely to

be exposed to the HIV virus than a heterosexual man who is not practising safe sex. It is the nature of the sexual activity that is important, not the sexual orientation.

None the less insurers are increasingly asking applicants direct questions about their sexual orientation. Such questions are not only irrelevant in assessing risk, but are also an unjustified invasion of privacy. Similar questions are also being directed by insurers to the GPs of applicants and the long-term consequences will be a growing reluctance on the part of homosexuals to be candid with their doctors. This will adversely affect the mutual trust and confidence on which effective health care is dependent.

If insurers in the United States can operate their businesses without discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, insurers in the United Kingdom can and should do likewise, confining their questions to matters which are truly material to the risks involved. Sincerely,
TREVOR PEARCY (Chairman,
Legal Services Group),
Terence Higgins Trust Ltd,
BM AIDS, WC1N 3XX,
November 25.

From Professor David Short
Sir, Wesley Gryk's article sets out the problem presented to insurance companies by the insidious spread of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infection among certain sections of the population. The insurance companies naturally want to identify those applicants who are at risk of developing the disease. This can most certainly be achieved by a blood test, but such a test is widely regarded as being unacceptable.

Surely there is a simple answer to this dilemma. The Association of British Insurers should issue an agreed statement to the effect that no payment will be made in respect of death or any illness caused by the Aids virus. There would then be no need for any questions to be asked about lifestyle, and no need for a blood test. Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHORT,
48 Victoria Street,
Aberdeen, Grampian.

Airline merger

From Mr Anthony Coombs, MP for Wyre Forest (Conservative)

Sir, The decision by Lord Young to allow the BA/BCal merger to go ahead, subject to restrictions, was applauded a shade prematurely by those who wanted to rescue BCal whilst preserving the Government's competitive credentials with the other airlines. Lord King has not only played the white knight, but has probably improved his negotiating position in the bargain.

Certainly he has given little away; the domestic BCal routes he gives up are losing £7 million a year, and BA can expect to pick up a large proportion of the profitable international connecting business anyway.

Although BA are to give up 10 of BCal's principal European routes, of these, seven are not even presently operating. Lastly, even the 5,000 slots at Gatwick to be surrendered represent only 10 per cent of the BA/BCal entitlement there.

So whether the proposals will mean more competition and cheaper travel will depend upon some nitty-gritty bargaining and careful monitoring by the Civil Aviation Authority. They have a rare second chance to reform the fudge that masqueraded in 1984 as a multi-airline policy.

First, they should conduct a licence revenue that opens to tender all BCal's current routes, including those to Munich, Geneva and Zurich, to competition. Second, they must ensure that the Gatwick slots, so graciously ceded by BA, are therefore balanced and not confined to the "wee small hours".

Finally, the CAA should see that independents are allocated permits on all international routes on which BA and BCal previously competed and now operate as one

carrier. Fine words may then possibly become fine deeds. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY COOMBS,
House of Commons,
November 24.

From the Chairman of Dan-Air
Sir, Representing an airline that has a wider spread of interests between charter and scheduled services, I would like to comment on the situation surrounding the proposed BA/BCal merger.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission was required to decide whether the merger was against the public interest, not to produce a new directive for the airline industry. This it did and BA is committed to surrendering eight actual operational routes and seven licences not already being operated, though it remains free to reapply for them in competition with the rest of us.

It will also withdraw appeals on eight licences and has undertaken not to oppose applications from other carriers wishing to compete with it on a number of routes where dual or multiple designation is available. However, the most important airport policy question of the future of Gatwick was not within the brief of the MMC and it is one with which the Department of Transport must grapple urgently.

It is in the best interest of the public to let the status quo at Gatwick continue, with charter and scheduled services competing on equal terms for the remaining limited capacity there. After all, as the MMC report points out, about 45 per cent of all passengers on UK charter flights use Gatwick. The charter airlines are now carrying over 10 million passengers a year on their charter flights to and from this airport. Yours faithfully,
F. E. F. NEWMAN, Chairman,
Dan-Air Services Ltd,
New City Court,
20 St Thomas Street, SE1,
November 19.

Church and schools

From the Bishop of London

Sir, May I assure you that, despite your clear statement to the contrary (report, November 21), I made no comments whatsoever on Mr Baker's Education Reform Bill on the day it was published.

Had I done so I would certainly not have been as dismissive either of Mr Baker's actions or of his motives, as your report makes me out to have been. Nor would I have ignored the modifications which Mr Baker made in the Bill in response to our representations to his original proposals.

Publication of this letter will also give me the opportunity to put the record straight over the churches' motivation in questioning some of Mr Baker's original proposals. Despite the "suspensions" of your second leader of the same date, the churches have constantly been drawing attention to the possible consequences for the education system as a whole should opting out take place on the basis proposed. To accuse us of "self-serving" in this matter is as misconceived as it is offensive.

Your leader went on to suggest that the churches will find it "much harder to argue against grant-maintained status" now that Mr Baker's Bill contains new

provision relating to religious education. But the simple fact is that the Bill fails completely to indicate the form that religious education will take in a grant-maintained school — as Mr Baker has himself suggested.

As for the charge that the churches are seeking to "deny to others" the sort of parental choice they themselves "already offer to some" through their voluntary-aided schools, this fails to recognise the important distinction between voluntary-aided schools and the proposed grant-maintained schools, namely that the former are maintained by local authorities; the latter would not be.

Such a charge also ignores the very clear affirmation set at the beginning of my earlier open letter to Mr Baker:

We should state initially and emphatically that we welcome the Government's intentions both to enhance the quality of provision in the nation's schools and to draw parents more fully into the partnership of those responsible for this provision.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LONDIN,
Chairman, Board of Education,
The General Synod of the Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1.

Service for the community

From Professor B. T. Robson

Sir, The Prince of Wales's call (report, November 19) for national community service and its endorsement by your own leader writer are most welcome. Just over two years ago, in my presidential address to section E of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, I made just such a proposal.

It has been clear for some time that too many young people are indeed facing a "crisis of exclusion" and, in that unhappy situation, they are fodder for unpleasant and ignorant extremist political groups of both right and left. Worse still, such youngsters are all too easily absorbed into the murky half-world of petty criminality.

Any scheme of city or community service should be based on the twin principles of universality and flexibility: the first to avoid the stigma associated with the "failures" who are faced with no alternative other than MSC (Manpower Services Commission) schemes; the latter to prise open the present rigidities that divide

those who are from those who are not in full-time education.

Everyone should be required to undertake such service, but it would be open to being tackled at any age between, say, 16 and 30.

The apparent upturn in the British economy will not of itself dispel the ghosts of "churn" and "us" of "haves" and "have-nots", which still haunt our society. Perhaps these spectres can never be totally banished, but our best hope is to give the younger generation a sense of common purpose; one which searches for a common good.

But we who are both older and part of "comfortable" Britain must be prepared to put our money where our mouth is. It has been suggested that "sabbaticals" might be granted to all adult workers at some stage in their working lives. Might it not be sensible to tie the enjoyment of that right to a spell in community service? A start might be made in the groves of academe, where such sabbaticals have long been a perk of the job.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ROBSON,
University of Manchester,
School of Geography,
Oxford Road,
Manchester 13,
November 19.

Inner-city initiatives

From the Chairman of the Association of London Authorities
Sir, I gather from reports in *The Times* (November 17) that Mr Trippier has been emphasising the Government's wish to involve local authorities in inner-city initiatives.

I find this rather astonishing as it is just one month ago that the executive of the Association of London Authorities met with Mr Ridley and offered the Government local council resources and a forum for discussion to work together on inner-city initiatives.

He firmly rejected our offer and told us there could be no co-operation until we accepted Government policy "in total". Yours faithfully,
MARGARET HODGE,
Chairman,
Association of London Authorities,
36 Old Queen Street, SW1,
November 18.

Famine in Uganda

From the National Director of International Christian Relief
Sir, Ethiopia is once again making the headlines, but I wonder if your readers are aware of the imminent famine crisis in Uganda. We are reasonably confident that the famine can be averted if action is taken now.

The food position in central and north Karamoja is desperate. The staple crop harvest this year has resulted in a frightening shortfall in yield, ranging from a 75 per cent failure in sorghum to a total failure for beans.

Without help thousands could die, mainly children. In its concern the Government of Uganda has asked for help from the major relief agencies, including International Christian Relief. Our field director, whose wife is Ugandan, returned recently from Uganda and has underlined the gravity of the situation.

Yours faithfully,
IAN ROSS,
National Director,
International Christian Relief,
PO Box 180,
16 St John's Hill,
Sevenoaks,
Kent,
November 23.

King's Cross fire

From Mr Kenneth Kolb
Sir, Fires in ships of the Falklands fleet, the Manchester store disaster, the Manchester Airport disaster and now again at King's Cross have all exposed the fatal effects of smoke and poisonous gases given off from burning cables. London Transport has for several years been using radon-insulated cables. Radon is the generic name for insulation which inhibits flame propagation and emission of gases.

The mass of cabling installed in the Underground would have required a massive programme of investment to replace. Nevertheless one lesson we could take must surely lead to an urgent revision to the standards for cabling in public buildings — of all types — to make the use of radon-type insulation compulsory.

Yours faithfully,
KEN KOLB,
Managing Director,
Suhner Electronics Ltd,
Telford Road,
Bicester,
Oxfordshire.

Error of judgement

From Mrs Rosalind G. Murray
Sir, Your various correspondence regarding "typing" errors is beginning to annoy me. Why is it always presumed that the shorthand-typist is at fault?

When I was a secretary I received the following dictation to a member of Parliament:
Thank you very much for agreeing to address our afternoon conference in Stoke-on-Trent next week. If you can get up in time, we would be delighted if you would join us for lunch.

Needless to say, a little alteration was made before it was sent for signature.
Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND G. MURRAY,
8 Pendine Court,
Warwick Place,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire,
November 19.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 27 1987

Ramsay MacDonald (1866-1937), the former Labour Prime Minister, died on November 9 while on a holiday voyage to South America.

MR. MACDONALD HONOURED

SERVICE IN THE ABBEY

A MOVING SCENE

A national tribute to James Ramsay MacDonald was paid yesterday at an impressive service in Westminster Abbey. The King was represented by the Duke of Gloucester. To-day, at Lossiemouth, the Scottish village where he was born, Mr. MacDonald will be laid to rest.

The body was brought to Westminster on a typical November day, with the sun fighting a gallant but losing battle against the fog. Except that the flags on the Victoria Tower of the House of Lords and on the Government buildings in Whitehall were at half-mast, the scene at Westminster, where over 1,000 people were present, was much as he knew it for so long. Although a great Parliamentary figure, a handful of members keeping the business going while most of their colleagues were at the Abbey.

Inside the Abbey tall candles shed a soft light. People came early for this leave-taking of a man who was born in the humblest circumstances and yet was able to render his countrymen — indeed, the people of the whole world — an invaluable service. The great and the wealthy, the unknown and the poor, composed the vast congregation. Mr. MacDonald's family had informed their father's friends that no tickets would be required for the service, so that all who wished to come might do so.

THE PALL BEARERS

The national grief at the passing of a great public servant was symbolised in the men who acted as pall bearers — the PRIME MINISTER — the SPEAKER, representing the Commons of England; SIR JOHN SIMON, representing the Liberal National group in the National Government; LORD DE LA WARR, of MR. MACDONALD's own National Labour group; and LORD BALDWIN, almost equally responsible with MR. MACDONALD for the triumph of 1931. Also acting as pall bearers were MR. C. R. ATTLEE, Leader of the Opposition, his presence signifying that the great Labour movement, which MR. MACDONALD did so much to build up, had gracious memories of one to whom in the end it was fundamentally opposed; SIR BALDWIN, representing the trade union movement; SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR, leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party; and, representative of the last phase in MR. MACDONALD's life, when the Scottish Universities honoured him and themselves by electing him their member of Parliament, MR. J. GRAHAM KERR, M.P., and MR. G. A. MORRISON, M.P.

Similarly, the general congregation showed that regret at Mr. MacDonald's passing was felt in every sphere of the national life. Queen Mary was represented by Lord Claud Hamilton and the Duke of Kent by Lord Herbert. Mr. Lloyd George, "Father" of the House of Commons, was present. So also were most of the members of the Government — Lord Halifax, the Lord Chancellor, Sir Samuel Hoare, Sir Thomas Inskip, Mr. Duff Cooper, Mr. Hore-Belisha, Mr. Oliver Stanley, Lord Ewington, Mr. W. S. Morrison, Lord Stanhope, Mr. Burgin, and Captain Mervin, the Government Chief Whip...

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Wing and a prayer

For the modern fighter-pilot the tumult in the clouds is the ceaseless beeps, whining and twittering of hi-tech equipment. *Equinox* (Channel 4) interviewed a retired pilot who recalled his own personal safety procedure of turning off almost all the expensive equipment in his cabin in order to have enough peace to concentrate. You did not need the missile detector, he argued; you detected missiles by seeing them.

The right stuff, according to this documentary, was less the crazy courage identified by Tom Wolfe than the pilot's ability to crash the biology barrier. Fighter planes are so technically sophisticated that today the pilot who survives is one who can read 75 dials in 30 seconds and withstand the crushing centrifugal force, or G's.

Too many G's and the blood supply to the brain ceases, producing what was described in the laconic jargon of the US Air Force as "a period of absolute incapacitation." The most frightening film used in this documentary was the black and white record of a training flight in which the student pilot had blacked out temporarily, sending his aircraft and his instructor hurtling down.

Despite the emphasis on technology, the programme was drawn to the gladiatorial glamour of individual aerial combat. There was a brief history of fighter planes, from the Red Baron's Triplane, through the Spitfires, Meteors, Phantoms and Mirages to today's MiGs and F-16's. Pilots spoke eloquently of the thrill of the dog fight. "Every emotion you have ever felt in your life — love, hate, fear, anger — magnified a thousand times."

Celia Brayfield

After losing Salman Rushdie, literary agents consider how to beat off aggressive US challenges



Tempted by America: Ben Okri, Bruce Chatwin, Caryl Phillips and Salman Rushdie all went to agent Andrew Wylie from Deborah Rogers

How the big bucks won the big books

agents that they do not recruit clients from each other.

The first clause in the Code of Practice of the Association of Authors' Agents, states in part that "No member shall knowingly represent an author who is the client of another agency, whether or not that agency is a member of the association." As Wylie is not a

'Everybody was quite shaken'

member of the British association, he has not violated any rule; whether or not the above clause would be considered applicable is irrelevant.

His partner, Gillian Aitken, the quintessential gentleman literary agent who belongs to the British association, has remained discreetly in the background. "I don't believe Andrew Wylie has done anything unethical, nor have I. Nothing I

have done has not been done to me within the last three months," he said.

But Deborah Rogers is undisputed in her grief over the loss of Rushdie. "I partly should be flattered because my list offered the plums that they wanted. But everyone has been quite shaken by what happened — not just me. It's shaken everyone's complacency and that's no bad thing. I think authors will be better served by their agents as a result."

Rogers sees the current defections as symptomatic of the understandable but probably regrettable love of money that has now permeated even the most rarefied publishing circles, threatening real literature as authors struggle to make sure they achieve the ever higher advances they see their colleagues getting.

"I can't tell you what Wylie offered Rushdie because it kept changing," she said. "My values

have always been that the right publisher for the right book is always going to produce the best result. I never feel I've done a wonderful deal if I get a massive advance and it's largely unearned."

But the Wylie incident is further evidence that — literary ideals and a close-knit social life aside — an agent must never forget that his or

necessarily want someone who has nice manners."

Wylie denies that the promise of money was the reason for the defection: a British or American contract for Rushdie's new novel, set mostly in Britain, *The Satanic Verses*, has yet to be signed. Rather, it was the appreciation Wylie showed for Salman Rushdie's work.

On the telephone from New York, Wylie said: "I was not born and raised in Las Vegas. I am not a gangster. Writers are not tranquilized cows who are susceptible to the approaches of a literary Roy Rogers. They are mature individuals who make their own decisions."

Rushdie merely said: "I could comment but I won't." And he went back to the fructification of his talent watched over by his new high-rise literary horticulturist on 57th Street.

Kathy Stephen

And for your agent, you don't

CONCERTS

Brave new work

RLPO/Cleobury
Liverpool

The Royal Liverpool Harmonic Society has always shown special commitment and courage in the presentation of new works. Their success in doing so was clear from the auditorium, almost full for a concert including a half-hour new work by a virtually unknown composer, Glyn Perrin. It is true that the concert also included Schubert's *Rosamunde* overture and Bruch's First Violin Concerto in an intense performance by Nigel Kennedy, who always draws a good house. It is also true that the reaction to the new work, Perrin's first orchestral piece, was resoundingly negative.

But perform it they did in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties. An earlier performance two years ago had to be abandoned because the work was too complex. With a much more generous allocation of rehearsal time, Nicholas Cleobury heroically led the orchestra through Perrin's *Tu Mème*.

The work is based on Marcel Duchamp's most complex and evocative painting, the "Large Glass" or "The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even".

Perrin succeeds in his ability to generate a sense of speed in his orchestral writing and therefore also in the contrasts between movement and stillness. More problematic is his control of orchestral textures, where he shows himself distressingly self-indulgent.

David Fallows

Philharmonia Festival Hall

First there was Bizet's *L'Arlésienne* suite no 1, and one does wonder why. Wonderfully invented music though it is, and superbly though it was played (there were excellent contributions from the woodwinds), there was no avoiding the feeling that it was just a lightweight curtain raiser.

Fortunately, there was something to raise the curtain for: Rachmaninov's First Piano Concerto, with the brilliant Soviet pianist Mikhail Pletnev as soloist.

He gave a refreshing account of the piece, clear-sighted and strong, though never inflexible in the outer movements.

The quality of his sound is ideal for Rachmaninov, clean and incisive without ever threatening to become over-harsh.

Libor Pesek, recently appointed principal conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, took the Philharmonia through their paces with a confident touch and a clear affection for the music.

He was understandably still more at home in the Seventh Symphony of Dvorak, in whose lightness and darkness, moreover, this orchestra showed that it can play with a real Germanic luxuriance.

Stephen Pettitt

The Knight of the Riddils

Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh

The cautious optimism which currently prevails in the theatres of Scotland is founded upon a perceived diversity. There is an overall goal of providing something which affirms the lives of its growing audience but enough confidence to assay many methods of reaching it.

Charles Nowosielski, a brow Scot despite his name, is the man behind one of those methods. As director of the touring company Theatre Alba and of the modest Brunton Theatre, where he has worked minor miracles since taking over last year, he believes in the auld Scots language and the telling of tall tales from long ago; but mostly, to his great credit, he believes in doing new plays.

The Knight of the Riddils is a new play by David Purves, who scored a conspicuous

THEATRE

Prince and the panto

success with *The Puddock and the Princess* a couple of years back. It's based on a very old tale indeed, thought to be from Bavaria, about a man who will give away something valuable if his adversary can ask him a question he cannot answer. In this case the gift is the Knight's beautiful daughter and his adversary is Prince Cormac, son of the King of Scots.

The riddle with which Cormac wins the game encapsulates the first half of the play which tells the adventures of Cormac and his brother after they have run away from his wicked stepmother.

Robert Dawson Scott

A jolly wait in the wilderness

Waiting for Godot
Lyttelton, NT

However bleak in other respects, *Godot* is unique among Beckett's plays in its positive emphasis on human companionship.

In Michael Rudman's production, it is not only the terror of the void that keeps the two tramps together but also the fact that they form an indissoluble match: one despairing partner cheered up by the compulsive optimist.

Among other things, this intensifies the play's games and vaudeville routines. The exchange of insults is conducted as a formal duel, with the antagonists plying out the ground and turning to fire.

Also, William Dudley's set includes an upstage hillcock, serving both as a lookout point and an adventure playground prop for the characters to dance up and roll down. Altogether, this is the jolliest *Godot* I have seen since Beckett's own Schiller Theatre version in the mid-seventies.

Vladimir is played by Alec McCowen, and Estragon by John Alderton — a comic



Two's company: John Alderton (left) as Estragon and Alec McCowen as Vladimir

specialist here opening himself to his emotional depths. His performance is often extremely funny, but the laughs derive straight from the raw experience of hunger and misery.

It is always Vladimir who gets the entertainment going; and where Alderton raises laughs with moans and tantrums, McCowen instigates deliberate comic business

which rarely strike the funny bone.

McCowen presents a chirpy and graceful figure, affecting a bouncy footloose walk periodically accelerating into an unseemly dash when he is carried off stage by a prostrate emergency. The drawback is that, unlike his partner, he conveys very little sense of the agony of the eternal wait.

The production uses Beckett's recently revised text, which departs most conspicuously from the standard version in the Pozzo scenes, in which Colin Welland pushes every aspect of the character to the limit: the tyrant, the gaudy bon vivant, and the owner who breaks down like a child at the loss of his smallest possessions.

Irving Wardle

The talent and the torment of Houdini

Houdini
Orange Tree
Richmond

This arresting and insightful impression of the great self-liberator is the third of this season's one-man shows to be written by the performer, John Sessions, is still doing his spirited life of Bony at the Albany; while a few weeks back, in a warehouse south of Tower Bridge, an account of the sufferings of a gay Victorian painter of large-eyed angels acquainted us with the name of Neil Bartlett.

One might try to argue that a performance in a self-written role must bring a total commitment, but this is risky reasoning, even though it appears borne out in Barry Killery's full-blooded, marvellously physical performance of his tormented hero. First seen behind a semi-transparent cloth, wriggling himself out of a strait-jacket, Killery's Houdini is soon twisting, buckling and dou-

bling up in his dressing room as he fights off unseen demons.

Stricken by the early death of his mother, the motivation for his extraordinary escapades is sometimes presented as the attempt to transcend physical restrictions altogether and emerge upon some higher plane where Mama waits to welcome him. Later in the story his death-defying escapes from coffins, tanks of water and whatever, seemed designed to show what mortal

flesh can do unaided by spiritual slapdoodle. The threads between these two impulses are not clearly drawn although the man's crusading rage against fraudulent spiritualists is clearly inspired by his own disappointments in the search for motherly love.

Killery's rubbery features seem capable of eliminating his nose altogether during his more extreme movements of facial agitation. Schoolboy smiles vanish beneath guilt self-questioning or garish MC

enticements as he mimes vanishing tricks, seance tricks and a repeat of the strait-jacket escape that has him jack-knifing, crimson in the face at our feet.

It is a high-octane performance but the energy is harnessed to let the pain show through. The comedy also: Houdini's ridiculous clumsiness on the dance floor gives the character an endearing sweetness.

Jeremy Kingston

FROM RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH
THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR OF 'GANDHI'

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FRIDAY PAGE

Modern nurses tend to be human

During a stay a few years ago at the Wellington Hospital, my husband gave one of his nurses tickets for *Starlight Express*. "I haven't seen it yet," I murmured. "She hasn't seen a West End play for four years," he said. That nurse was in her forties, had nursed all her life and her salary was insufficient to maintain her own London flat. In light of the problems this week in Birmingham, where a lack of intensive care unit nurses caused delays in important heart operations, the spotlight is turning on the nursing profession.

Today, a student nurse starts at a salary of £4,540 and reaches £7,170 by her third year. Staff nurses get £7,300 and a Sister starts at £9,000. London weighting is about £933. There are no increments, except for a small "lead" payment for psychiatric or geriatric nursing. No wonder women are not flocking to place a cool hand on fevered brows before sticking in the intravenous and picking up the bedpan.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) estimates a net loss of about 10,000 jobs a year and a drop out rate of nearly 33 per

cent among student nurses. Today's school leaver, with the same qualifications required for nursing, can go into a variety of jobs, almost all offering better pay and prospects. "My daughter has just finished three years' training as a nurse," says Kit Kidner, a former theatre nurse, "and her salary is nearly half that of her sister in the police force."

There are "lifestyle" disadvantages. "The hours are one of the reasons I left," says Sue Jones, 31, now working in a nursing agency. "There's a rota of night duty and you do miss out. I wanted to know that every evening I could be free."

This thought was echoed by one London doctor. "People's sex lives have changed," he says. "In the Forties and Fifties, nurses lived in residences, were not in it for the money; there was an esprit de corps and a jolly social life within the hospital community that filled in time before marriage. Now a 22-year-old woman has a boyfriend and wants to spend nights with him, but even the shabbiest flat costs money."

There are straightforward solutions to the nursing shortage. The Government has already increased wages and Mrs

Thatcher has indicated support for proposals expected from the Nurses Pay Review Body, which will recommend pay increments to reward skill and experience. Highly skilled nurses in demanding jobs like intensive care would receive premium salaries. Market forces are working predictably as the declining allure of nursing and the increased need for practitioners creates competitive wages.

But there are other forces at work that may be less productive. These new forces sound persuasive. "We want nurses treated as equals on the team," says Julia Cumberlege, chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities and author of the influential 1986 report on community nursing. Using competent nurses as widely as possible in community work is a sensible sug-



BARBARA AMIEL

gestion. But a strong movement has developed among nursing educators and professional bodies like the RCN to jettison nurses into a twilight zone in which they become quasi-doctors. Cumberlege is happy that Wednesday's White Paper has given some thought to nurses prescribing medication. She sees difficulties, however, for hospital nurses because doctors "don't consider them equals".

One highly placed female administrator was quite firm about the problem: "Some consultants insist on certain procedures being carried out when nurses believe there is a better way," she said. "The classic is the sheepskins used to prevent bedsores. Some consultants prefer foam rubber and you find nurses changing the procedure before the doctor comes

around." But, I asked, shouldn't the consultant decide? No, came the answer. There should be one agreed policy. I shuddered at the possible scenarios, should an inventive doctor discover a new treatment and have to seek approval from a committee.

More and better education is the siren song for the new look nurse/doctor. The Project 2000 of the UKCC (Central Committee on Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting) wants a thorough academic education for all nurses. So does the RCN Nursing Manifesto.

Fair enough, but the BSc or diploma nurse spends much time away from patients. Surely the real need is for experienced people who will do the vital routine tasks. "Two things are killing nursing," says Kit Kidner.

"The 1968 Salmon report, which eliminated matrons and brought in management categories as the only means of advancement, and Project 2000 have combined to create a future in which nurses are midway between nurses and doctors but are neither. In the meantime there will be no one doing the

real nursing unless they create another layer."

The search for status and power is part of the human condition, ironically, those nursing professionals most in pursuit of "respect" may have let it slip through their fingers. The old-fashioned matron wielded enormous influence and the most hardened consultant never had any doubt about the "equal" power of sister. The vanity of those consultants who fail to realize the crucial importance of good teamwork with nurses has a hefty price: good nurses simply go to hospitals where their value is recognized. In the end, women could become totally "equal" with doctors by simply going to medical school - 46 per cent of medical students are female.

Meanwhile, counteracting scarcity with money is the least dangerous, and cheapest, way to cope with the nursing shortage. We must avoid crippling the health system by turning hospitals into arenas of jurisdictional dispute as nurses with newly raised consciousness and a crisis of expectations create bureaucratic nightmares. That would be the most expensive proposition of all.

Flights over the frontiers

A documentary on the swashbuckling pilots of the Sudan had a strange gestation, as Sally Brompton reports

Nadia Haggag has never forgotten sitting by her parents' swimming pool at the age of 15, and having her long hair stroked by the wing of a single-engine plane.

It was piloted by one of the men whom her older brother, an agricultural student, had brought home to spend the weekend on their father's coffee plantation in the Sudan. The pilot belonged to an exclusive and daredevil breed of men known among themselves as "ag-pilots" - the agricultural pilots who spray crops by flying heavily-loaded planes just above ground at high speeds in gruelling and often primitive conditions.

They fly for the sheer danger of what they describe as "the last frontier of real physical flying" to the teenage girl they were "just so vivid that they stayed in my imagination". When her BBC boss asked her, nearly 20 years later, whether she had any ideas for a television documentary, she immediately thought of the swashbuckling characters who had made such an impression in her youth.

The result, *Into Africa*, features the ag-pilots who flock to Kenya and the Sudan each year: they spray coffee and cotton, as well as carrying casualties out of heavily guarded and mined war zones for the Red Cross and undertaking secret missions into the guerrilla-controlled southern Sudan, where the rebels regularly shoot down planes.

They are men like Englishman Tony Abercromby-Dick, who went out to Kenya in 1955 at the time of the Mau Mau, and when that military emergency ended re-directed his passion for danger into, first, charter flying and then crop-spraying.

In order to research and film the documentary, which



She says that she is not particularly adventurous

Mesmerized by memories: Nadia Haggag (inset) and the daredevil ag-pilots

she wrote and produced, Haggag spent three months living alongside the ag-pilots in accommodation which ranged from converted packing cases to tents.

Her nerve was initially put to the test at the beginning of her research, when she visited some ag-pilots crop-spraying near the White Nile in the Sudan. When she asked them to explain the sensation, they suggested that she should try it for herself. Since the planes were all single-seaters, they strapped her on top of a tin can behind the pilot, who handed her a plastic sick-bag and told her: "I just want you to remember, at the worst moments, that I know what I'm doing."

Flying three feet above ground and hurtling into 180 degree turns, she felt her stomach being wrenched by the pull of gravity. "It was the strangest feeling," she recalls. "It was total terror. My mouth went completely dry and I could literally smell my own fear. But I knew I couldn't



afford to be sick." To the pilot's amazement, she was not - "so I scored a point there". Haggag says that they are so proud of what they do that "they get carried away. They are all slightly suicidal. It's a bit like a game of Russian roulette."

Deprived for six months at a time of female company, they took the opportunity to unburden themselves to Haggag. "We talked mainly about their lives, their flying, their dreams, their women. Quite a lot of them are married, and for most of them their marriages work only because they are away."

Haggag's own childhood was spent in the pioneering environment of the south Sudanese jungle, "hundreds of miles from anywhere". At the age of five she was sent to school in Egypt and then on to a convent in Devon. With a degree in English from London University, she got a job with the BBC Arabic

Service before transferring to television.

She moved through the departments, from production assistant up to director and then had an idea for a documentary, *Haunted Heroes*, about the Vietnam veterans who live in the wildernesses of America. It won the Prix Italia and gave Haggag the chance to make *Into Africa*.

Despite the fact that both her films are about men who, for completely different reasons, "cannot feel at home in our civilized package society", she says that she is not particularly adventurous herself and wants nothing more than to live in a city surrounded by people. "The only way I could persuade the BBC to let me make a film was by doing something nobody else would do," she explains. "I'd give anything to make one about an artist living on Clapham Common."

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Into Africa, in the *Worldwide* series, will be shown on BBC2 next Wednesday, 8.10pm.

Child's eye view of law

With the recent attention on cases of child abuse, perhaps it is time to reassess the legal rights of children

With Dr Marietta Higgins before the Cleveland child abuse inquiry this week, one thing is already clear: whatever the judge's findings, the affair has given a massive boost to parents' rights. Any changes in the law will reflect this. But it is far less certain what the outcome will be for the rights of the children involved.

Cleveland has sharpened public awareness about shortcomings in the treatment of children by social services and the courts; but the revelations come as no surprise to at least one group of people: the Children's Legal Centre.

Jenny Kuper, one of the centre's lawyers, says: "No one listened to what the children said had happened to them; if they said they were not abused, they were just ignored."

It is part of a wider attitude towards children and what they say in Britain. "American research has shown that children's evidence is no more or less reliable than that of adults," according to Isobel Reid, another of the centre's advisers. "In abuse cases in particular, they are extremely unlikely to make it up. The problem comes in getting adults to believe them."

The centre is unique in Britain: it opened in 1981 as a registered charity and limited company to provide advice and information on children and the law. Run on a shoestring budget of £160,000 a year (a mixture of government funds and grants) it operates from a couple of rooms in Islington, where its six workers battle to meet the mounting demand for its services.

Requests for advice, by telephone and letter, have risen by 400 per cent between 1983 and 1986; there were more than 300 telephone calls in one month alone, for example, and in the last 12 months, with the focus on child abuse, the

numbers have continued to grow. Only 6 per cent of calls are from young people, however; one reason, the centre says, is that it is difficult for children to get to a telephone on their own during the day.

The centre encourages the recognition of children as individuals under the law, who should be able to have their interests and views represented independently; in other words, "to be involved, informed, and listened to".

British lawyers are not encouraged to specialize in children's law (although one law centre, in Brent, is now tailored specifically to the

needs of young people in the area). And in legal proceedings children are often not entitled to direct representation.

In the US, procedures and attitudes are generally far more advanced where children are concerned, says Isobel Reid. Video links - now to be introduced in the courts here - have been used for some time in US child abuse cases, and a child's evidence generally does not need to be corroborated.

Legal action can also be brought on behalf of groups of children: one such "class action" was brought over the penal policies at the Florida state training schools. In this country, however, class actions are still not possible; the Children's Legal Centre tried, and failed, to participate in the Gillick case on contraception, on the ground that "children generally" needed a voice in the proceedings.

But if the Cleveland affair does nothing else, it looks likely that the Government's long awaited proposal to reform child care law will at least now be implemented.

Frances Gibb

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Small wonder of sound

From Joanne Patrick, High Street, Frant, Kent

I read with interest Lee Rodwell's article "The sounds for silence" (November 5). Last summer we used a baby soother tape for our newly-born daughter; she would only sleep for the duration of the tape (about 20 minutes). She became "addicted" to the noise and could not go to sleep without it, which meant us getting up in the night, sometimes as many as four times) to switch the machine back on.

From Jane C. Hern, Chancery Lane, London WC2

Readers of the article about

TALKBACK

matrimonial law and lawyers (Monday Page, October 26) might get the impression that divorce lawyers are only concerned with securing the largest settlement possible. This is not so.

In many cases, divorce is not at all lucrative for either party or their solicitors. Most divorce settlements are concerned with stretching already limited resources to maintain two families instead of one. The trauma and hardship involved in this is hardly a "career" that many women would wish to pursue. In addition, such proceedings are often conducted on legal aid and there is no way that the current legal aid rates will keep solicitors in any style to which they would like to become accustomed.

The article also refers to the existing divorce law as "a delicious bit of English hypocrisy". The sole ground for divorce is the irretrievable breakdown of marriage, which is a "no-fault" ground, but this must be evidenced by proving one or more of five cir-

cumstantial facts which include, in effect, the old matrimonial offences of adultery, desertion and cruelty. If irretrievable breakdown were instead established simply by proof that the couple have lived apart for at least a year, it would provide a genuine no-fault test.

From Helen Stanger, Botley Road, Burridge, Southampton

What a shocking indictment Mrs Cripps has made against thousands of boarding school parents (Talkback, November 11). We sent our three sons to a boarding, public school (after one boarding term at their preparatory school), solely to obtain for them the best education available.

Far from enjoying "more freedom and a better social life" of Mrs Cripps' imaginings, we suffered the usual anguish and heartache at parting from our children, and the awful emptiness at home without them. We missed them dreadfully, as do most parents who are prepared to sacrifice their own emotional needs for the sake of their children's education.

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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1314.4 (-2.2)
FT-SE 100
1660.7 (-3.4)
Bargains
17295 (21955)
USM (Datastream)
133.50 (-0.65)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7940 (-0.0015)
W German mark
2.9915 (-0.0025)
Trade-weighted
75.7 (-0.1)

Channel
Isles TSB
rises 17%

TSB Channel Islands made pretax profits of £6.1 million for the 49 weeks ending October 31, after its year-end changed from November 20. This is a 17 per cent rise adjusted to match last year's result of £5.5 million.

It was the first year of operation as a public company for the Jersey-based subsidiary of TSB Group. The dividend rises 10 per cent to a total for the year of 5.4p.

MK stake

MK Electric may have found a white knight to fight RTZ's £206 million takeover offer. The Legend group, one of Europe's largest companies in the electrical products market, has built a 2.3 per cent stake in MK.

With interest rates on the way down and share markets still jittery, where should investors be putting their money? Tomorrow's *Family Money* gives the answer.

BPB ahead

BPB Industries, Britain's sole manufacturer of plasterboard, lifted pretax profits 31 per cent to £90.9 million in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend rises 33 per cent to 3p, partly to even out interim and final payments. *Tempos, page 26*

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 1948.95 (-18.58)
Nikkei Average 2282.18 (-82.49)
Hang Seng 2179.58 (-4.89)
Amsterdam Gen 24.8 (-2.1)
Sydney AD 1917.7 (+15.2)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1349.2 (-24.4)
Brenntag 1040 (+120)
General 3829.8 (-14.3)
Paris CAC 298.8 (-3.7)
Zurich SKA Gen 448.00 (+1.50)
London
FT-30 All-Share 1314.4 (-2.2)
FT-100 1660.7 (-3.4)
FT Gold Mines 330.9 (+3.1)
FT Index Interest 65.54 (+0.40)
FT Govt Bond 98.80 (same)
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MAIN PRICE CHANGES

MINES
Pearson 687p (+41p)
Astra Proprietary 467p (+58p)
Caterpillar 487p (+58p)
MK Elect 585p (+24p)
Mersey Docks 352p (+27p)
Cable & Wireless 303p (+12p)
FKI Elect 104p (+12p)
British Vita 372p (+22p)
Sytone 325p (+40p)
Tiphook 285p (+15p)
Standard Chart 482p (+10p)
Tate & Lyle 687p (+12p)
Samuelson Group 177p (+14p)
Rediff & Colman 744p (+16p)

FALLS

Marler 450p (-50p)
British Telecom 213p (-12p)
Henderson Admin 575p (-25p)
Morgan Grenfell 285p (-10p)
N Brown 695p (-20p)
J Jarvis 650p (-25p)
Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 9%
3-month interbank 9-9 1/8%
3-month eligible bills 8 1/2-8 3/4%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4-6 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.69-5.69%
30-year bonds 98-98 1/8%

CURRENCIES

London
£/\$ 1.7940
£/DM 2.9915
£/Sfr 2.4515
£/FF 10.1361
£/Yen 241.29
£/Index 75.7
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SDR 10.756987

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London Fixing
AM \$477.85 pm \$477.85
close \$477.50-478.00 (\$266.00-266.50)
New York
Comex \$476.50-477.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan.) pm \$17.90bbl (\$17.90)
Denotes Wednesday's close

STOCK MARKET

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Unit Trusts 36
Commodities 36
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Telecom rises
to £1.12bn
Increase in manning
levels causes concern

By Colin Campbell

Rising manning levels at British Telecom — which now has 224,000 staff, up by 900 in six months, and 1,200 more than at the end of September a year ago — are causing widespread concern among investment analysts, who are now increasing their estimate of when BT might be expected to become more labour-efficient.

Announced yesterday, BT's interim results, showing an 11.3 per cent pretax profit increase to £1.12 billion on a turnover up by 7.4 per cent at £4.95 billion, were broadly in line with expectations, and were welcomed. So was the increase in the interim dividend, from 3.35p to 3.75p a share.

However, the shares weakened from 225p to 213p, as analysts expressed their concern about staff levels and the overall impact on costs.

Mr Graeme Odgers, the managing director of BT, said staff levels in the core business had increased by about 400 in the six months. The increase was necessary, he said, because of the need to attack the installation and repairs backlog, to speed up BT's

modernization plans, and to help improve the quality of services.

Staff costs rose by 6.3 per cent, to £1.69 billion, in the six months, which included a £15 million provision for employee profit-sharing. BT hopes to provide more for this scheme when full year results are to hand.

"Staff numbers will be broadly maintained at present levels until the installation and repair backlog, including the damage caused by the

storm on October 16, has been overcome," Mr Odgers added.

BT — which has been under public attack for the quality of its services — yesterday admitted that there was still some way to go in improving services, but maintained that progress was being made.

Responding to Cable and Wireless's public criticism this week's concerning installation delays, Mr Odgers said BT had faced "tremendous demand" for services, particularly especially in London and the

City, and that there were procedures for dealing with disputes.

"But," he added, "I can assure you that we do not discriminate against anybody."

He said he would welcome competition, should BT lose its payphone monopoly — as long it was fair. It would not be right for a newcomer to have only the prime sites, he said. At the end of September, 85 per cent of payphones were in order, with the target of 90 per cent in sight.

BT disclosed yesterday that it was considering charging for directory inquiries, a service which costs BT £150 million a year to run. Directory inquiries have increased by 150,000 a day, or by 10 per cent, reflecting increased usage by business organizations wanting hundreds of individual addresses, and by the increasing tendency not to use the directory. "Perhaps it also suggests that Directory Inquiries are efficient," BT added.

Group capital expenditure is estimated to total £2.3 billion this year (£2.1 billion).

British Airways on defensive
as rivals move in for B-Cal

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways was last night rocked back onto the defensive in its battle to take over British Caledonian.

Air Europe was yesterday given leave to seek a judicial review in the High Court over the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which cleared the way for the BA bid in the first place.

At the same time SAS, the Scandinavian airline, was receiving encouraging support from MPs and Government agencies over its rival bid.

Mr Justice Macpherson gave his "reluctant" approval for Air Europe to seek a judicial review of the MMC decision even though he said he did not "believe in my heart of hearts that this case will succeed."

But it was the gathering support for the SAS bid which most worried British Airways. It sent a submission to the Office of Fair Trading, now investigating the proposed SAS merger, urging the OFT to recommend that it should be referred to the MMC for yet another review.

British Caledonian now has three weeks in which to make up its mind over whether to accept the offer made by BA or to reject it in favour of the SAS bid. This has still not been formalized. But it is emerging as an exciting and forward looking plan for European aviation.

The idea centres on creating a new "second force" airline capable of taking on the giants, including British Airways. British Caledonian, based at Gatwick, Sussex, would remain in control, although SAS would hold about 40 per cent of the shares. They would then re-schedule flights to link with each other. A passenger flying, for example, from Copenhagen to Los Angeles would book a through flight via Gatwick with one single code number and effectively one airline.

Such a close relationship would then be spread throughout the network of both carriers with each providing thousands of new passengers for the other.

It has long been a dream of Mr Jan Carlzon, the president of SAS, to have such a large European airline to rival the existing giants and he has for months been trying to woo Sabena of Belgium, Austrian Airlines, Finnair and BCal to join him.

If Mr Carlzon gets his way he would offer other independent airlines such as Dan Air and Air Europe a stake in the new SAS/BCal giant with the chance of linking their own scheduled feeder routes into its long haul services.

For the time being the ball is back in the Government's court. SAS, which is prepared to better the BA bid in order to convince wavering BCal shareholders, will not make its formal proposals until it has at least been given an assurance from the Government that it will not run into legal or political problems.

BCal will not make any decision until it too knows the Government's views and has seen the SAS formal offer.

4,000 jobs to go in Babcock cutbacks

By Joe Joseph

FKI Babcock, formed when FKI Electricals and the Babcock International engineering group merged, is shedding 4,000 jobs, closing down about one-third of Babcock's 60 sites and dismissing a similar proportion of Babcock's senior managers as part of a rationalization programme.

Babcock contributed about £3.5 million to the enlarged group's interim pretax profits of £13.3 million announced yesterday, with Stone, the troubled systems engineering group FKI bought in June, adding £1.5 million.

Mr Tony Gartland, FKI Babcock's chief executive, said: "We did quite a lot of groundwork before going ahead with the merger and there has been nothing we didn't expect. Things have gone very well."

"But it will be another 12 months before we see what FKI Babcock really looks like. By then we will have disposed



Tony Gartland: on schedule

of what we are going to dispose of. The show's on the road and we are on schedule to meet our targets."

Lord King of Warrnaby, the former Babcock chairman now heading the expanded group, said: "The aim is to complete all rationalization measures by the end of March 1988, so that the full benefits of the major cost reduction will be felt in the next financial year." The rationalization is

aimed at boosting Babcock's profits by about £30 million a year.

Mr Gartland said of the company's priorities: "The first thing is to get the profits and earnings per share right; the second is to get the gearing right; and the third is to give a tremendous kick to organic growth."

He said the group would concentrate more on manufacturing, with much of the contracting business — which accounts for 45 per cent of Babcock's turnover and offers lower margins than manufacturing — being sold.

He emphasized: "We're not prepared to sell off the contracting business for prices we don't think are appropriate just to fulfil our structured plan. We would only dispose of contracting companies providing we can get what we think is a fair price."

Lord King said the stock market fall had hurt the



Close to a banker at last: Anita Roddick and Robin Leigh-Pemberton yesterday

Company of the Year
award for Body Shop

By Our City Staff

The Body Shop cosmetics chain, founded by Mrs Anita Roddick in 1976 on a wing, a prayer and a £4,000 loan from a local garage owner after several bankers shooed her out of their offices, was yesterday named "Company of the Year" in the 1987 Business Enterprise Awards.

Ironically it was Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, who handed Mrs Roddick the award at a charity lunch in London in aid of the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, MENCAP.

The accolade is the latest in a stream of plaudits for 44-year-old Mrs Roddick, who in 1985 was named Business Woman of the Year.

She attributes her success to "energy, curiosity and break-

ing the rules," qualities which have transformed the company she formed 11 years ago with her husband, Gordon, from a tiny shop in Brighton to an empire turning over £17.5 million a year and making annual pretax profits of more than £3 million.

Her energy and her disregard for business conventions have led her on a sledge through Lapland to study how moisturisers are made, and to strip off for a group of flat-chested Japanese pearl divers — who were intrigued by the size of her breasts — in return for information about how to care for skin underwater.

Now the Body Shop logo hangs above nearly 300 shops around the world, and the number is growing, with America the next target. Between the shops and

manufacturing a wide range of naturally-based products — which Mrs Roddick calls "cosmetics stripped of hype" — the group has created nearly 3,000 new jobs. Some 98 per cent of its products are made in Britain.

Announcing the results of this year's competition, Sir David Nickson, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, the award's main sponsor, said: "The Body Shop is a remarkable example of successful wealth and job creation backed by a highly developed social conscience."

But while the ride to the top has been successful, it has not been altogether effortless. Mrs Roddick complains: "It's hard to get to the top if you are female in this country. The only way to do it is to run your own company."

Plessey
in £30m
Ferranti
chip buy

By Our City Staff

Plessey, the electronics group, is paying £30 million in cash for the semiconductor operations of Ferranti, its British electronics rival, which dominated the semiconductor field in the late 1970s and early 1980s before a wave of domestic and international competition weakened its grip.

The acquisition makes Plessey the biggest manufacturer in Europe of application specific semiconductors, a sector expected to grow by 67 per cent by the end of the decade. It also lifts the company to ninth in a world league dominated by Japanese giants like Fujitsu and the US LSI Logic.

Sir John Clark, the chairman and chief executive of Plessey, said: "Plessey is the leading company in the British semiconductor industry. We have an outstanding research capability, a record of growth and profitability and a world-class manufacturing base."

"By bringing together the Plessey and Ferranti semiconductor operations, there are unique opportunities to effect cost savings and achieve a level of financial performance which would have been unavailable to us had we continued to operate apart."

"Our target is to reach at least the same levels of profitability in the combined company as we have already achieved in Plessey Semiconductors."

Mr Doug Dunn, the managing director of Plessey Semiconductors, said the acquisition doubled Plessey's annual turnover in semiconductors and made it better equipped to compete with its Japanese and US rivals.

He added: "We will certainly continue to look around the world for further acquisitions to make us even bigger and stronger."

Plessey's semiconductor subsidiary has grown rapidly during the 1980s from an annual turnover of £18 million to one of £64 million.

Banks join Brazil plan

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Barclays and National Westminster banks yesterday agreed to join the \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion) accord to refinance Brazilian debt as the deadline for initial responses closed.

Both banks had refused to agree to the arrangement, which they believed had been put together purely for the benefit of US banks needing to meet regulatory requirements.

In spite of denials by the Bank of England, many bankers believe it engaged in some

discreet arm-twisting to persuade Barclays and NatWest to participate. The Bank has made no secret of its support for the interim financing arrangement.

Their decision to participate is important because it means all four of the big English clearing banks have now agreed.

The financing agreement is a temporary measure to enable Brazil to resume capital and interest repayments on international bank debt which it suspended early this year.

Redland profit up 35%

By Alexandra Jackson

Redland, the international building products group, increased pretax profits in the six months to September 26 by 35 per cent to £75.3 million, helped by the inclusion of Genstar, the US aggregates business, acquired in October 1986.

Mr Robert Napier, Redland's joint managing director, confirmed that Genstar is on course to make \$36 million (£20 million) profit in a full year and expects its to enhance group earnings per share.

Group turnover rose by 31 per cent to £760.9 million. An interim dividend of 5p was declared (4.3p).

Overall, Redland's directors are expecting a "strong second half."

Trading profits from overseas subsidiaries increased from £15.5 million to £31.5 million.

Profits in the domestic market grew from £35.7 million to £44.5 million. The group share of associates' profits fell.

Tempos, page 26

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STOCK MARKET

Bid hopes send Birmid soaring 44p

By Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

Hopes of a full bid for Birmid, whose interests range from Potterton boilers to New World cookers and lawn-mowers, rose sharply yesterday as it emerged that Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement supplier, had bought almost 2 million shares, or 2.6 per cent of the equity.

Birmid, which has become a perennial takeover target, responded to the news with a leap of 44p to 244p, where the entire group is capitalised at about £176 million. Blue Circle appears to have built up its holding during the past few weeks after friendly talks between the two sides broke down.

Blue Circle has already made it clear that it is on the look out for acquisitions. Talk in the market last night suggested that it is now lining up an aggressive bid for Birmid. Blue Circle was unavailable for comment.

In the spring, Hepworth Ceramic tried to arrange a merger with Birmid and even bought a 10.2 per cent stake in the shares. But, in doing so, it contravened trading regulations and was forced to halve the holding by the Takeover Panel. It eventually abandoned the idea and sold the rest of its stake.

Elsewhere, share prices had to endure the quietest conditions since Big Bang last

year as a meagre 17,295 bargains were registered on the Stock Exchange. With Wall Street closed for Thanksgiving Day and the proposals for the US budget deficit cuts due to be discussed in Congress, few investors in London were willing to open new positions ahead of the weekend.

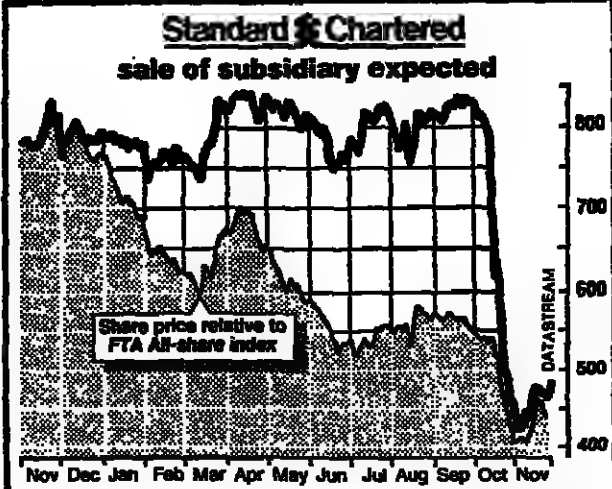
The FT-SE 100 index traded within narrow limits throughout the day and finished 3.4 points down at 1,660.7. The narrower FT-30 index also ended 2.2 points lower at 1,314.4.

The Chancellor dampened sentiment by saying he saw no reason for another cut in interest rates at present. As a result, gains of up to 2½

per cent were seen in the FT-SE 100. The group revealed excellent interim results last month and the shares are due to be split into two ones.

among government securities were halved.

Pearson, which publishes the Financial Times and has other interests ranging from merchant banking to fine china, remained the focus of attention on revived bid hopes as the price surged 41p to



668p. Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is believed to have topped up its holding in the shares this week to 14.9 per cent. Hoare Govett, the broker, which bought Mr Murdoch's original stake in Pearson, was active again in the shares yesterday as at least one large line went through the market. But it is thought Hoare was acting for other clients this time. Almost 1.5 million shares had been traded at the close.

Guinness, the drinks group, was in demand, rising by 5p to 258p on a turnover of 2.6 million shares. The price has been boosted by this week's decision to ask for shareholders' approval to spend £200 million, to buy back up to 10 per cent of its own shares.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and drinks group, moved up by 4p to 229p in thin trading. The company has been on full bid alert since the dawn raid earlier this month by General Cinema, the American soft drinks bottler and cinema owner, which snapped up another 10 per cent of the shares at 220p. This lifted its total holding in Cadbury to 18.2 per cent. Dealers are now hoping that General Cinema will continue adding to its holding, up to the 25 per cent level.

Norcross, which was chased higher this week on talk that another predator had picked up Williams Holdings' shares, was unmoved at 349p.

Standard Chartered, the international bank, jumped by 15p to 480p, after 483p, on a modest turnover of half a million shares.

The group recently resumed negotiations in the US to sell Union Bancorp, its successful Californian banking offshoot and dealers now believe that a deal is imminent.

Dai-ichi Kangyo, one of Japan's largest banks, and Wells Fargo, the US group which bought the troubled Crocker National Bank from Midland last year for \$1 billion, have both been tipped

as possible buyers of Union Bancorp. Some estimates, before the crash on world stock markets, claimed that the US sale could raise £1 billion for Standard Chartered, but these have now been reduced to £800 million or less.

T&N, the industrial materials group, held at 150p despite a buy recommendation from County NatWest, the broker. Mr Geoff Allum, an analyst, visited the company and was impressed by the rationalisation programme. He believes it should benefit profits.

Sentiment has also been boosted by the news that Mr Robert Holmes à Court has sold half his 10 per cent stake in Texaco, the beleaguered US oil group, to Trans World Airlines. This helped to calm fears that he might be forced to liquidate his 14.9 per cent stake in Standard Chartered to meet other commitments.

Freemans, the mail order specialist, rose by 7p to 173p with whispers in the market that a bid is on the way.

The group is now regarded as the last real takeover target in the mail order sector, it became vulnerable when it announced a disappointing set of interim results in September with pretax profits improving only marginally from £15.12 million to £15.19 million. Sales from late May until the end of June were estimated to be about £6 million below forecasts.

Dealers claim that other high street retailers like Sear's or Woolworths may be stalking the group, having taken note of the success that a rival company, Next, has made of its acquisition of the Grattan mail order business.

British Vita, the Manchester polymeric products group, attracted speculative support, closing 22p higher at 372p. A report in Wednesday's market report stated that Allied Colloids had received a bid approach. Allied Colloids states that it has not received any such bid.

TEMPUS

Redland keeps its balance

Keeping up with the various fortunes of Redland's broadly spread business is always a chore, especially when the net effect is another steady state of sound, if unexciting, figures.

If West Germany is on the way up, America will be on the way down, while Australia, quick to turn its economy around, will have staged a recovery, only to see the benefits whisked away by currency movements. This is before examining underlying demand for roof tiles and ready-mixed concrete.

As long as the economies around the world continue to move in complementary cycles, Redland should continue to benefit from its diversified portfolio. But if they choose to emulate world stock markets and move in unison, it may be faced with a very different situation.

At present, however, there appears to be a reasonable equilibrium.

The Maryland aggregates business, Genstar, is estimated to have accounted for about two-fifths of the pretax profits increase.

Underlying trading in Britain remains buoyant, especially in concrete roof tiles and bricks. The much talked about move into the lucrative plasterboard market will not make an impact for several years.

Suffice it to say that for the normally ultra-conservative Redland to embark on a high-profile challenge to a well established monopoly supplier, BPB, reveals an underlying frustration with the remaining growth opportunities within the British Isles.

The oil slump has at last caught up with the Texan subsidiary. Profits were down and will be lower for the full year. Nevertheless the group remains confident that the highway programme is secure.

Genstar is on target to make \$36 million (£20 million) in the full year and will enhance earnings.

All of Redland's debt is dollar denominated, minimizing the currency risk and reducing the interest charge.

West Germany is holding its own in a dull market while Australia is lower now but shows signs of improving.

For the full year, Redland should report pretax profits of £187 million. On earnings per share of 41.5p, the p/e is 8.7 times.

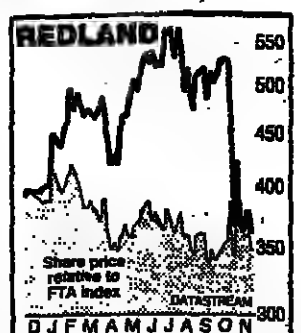
In a market where the quality of management counts more than it did six weeks ago, Redland's merits are having more of an airing. And longer term there could be some excitement when the plasterboard market is addressed.

BPB's move into its market. All this may presage a greater degree of international competition. Plasterboard is an important building material, the consumption of which is still relatively low. Although the cost of entry remains high, the increasing size of building materials groups reduces the relative expense.

Until the crunch comes, BPB continues to reduce its cost base. The investment in a new plaster mill in Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire, is expected to have a significant impact. Capital expenditure will amount to at least £150 million in the next five years.

Flaunting the well-known profitability of plasterboard manufacture has clearly encouraged others to challenge BPB's position. To reveal extra information was seen as playing into the hands of the competition, itself more coy.

Yet, having been the sole domestic manufacturer, BPB is now faced with a threat from two new entrants. The Anglo-Australian group, Redland and CSR, is the more serious as Knauf, the German, may be no more than a sabre-rattling, following



Dawson Int

Dawson International's profits were somewhat better than market expectations, but the shares still shed 10p to 189p.

The reasons were the warnings given about the fall of the dollar and the steep increase in raw material costs.

Dawson takes out currency cover on its exports, which account for half of British output, but feels the full effect of the translation of overseas manufacturing profits.

With one-third of its turnover in the United States, the company's first-half profits would have been £600,000 higher had the dollar stayed at last year's levels.

Profits gained an extra £1 million, however, from the inclusion for a full six months of Associated Products, the American shower curtain manufacturer, against only three months in the previous first half.

Loss elimination from the closure of Mackinnon, the fully fashioned knitwear subsidiary, also gave a £400,000 boost to profits. The loss from the disposal of Mackinnon was accounted for in last year's accounts.

Dawson remains committed to a substantial capital expenditure programme, spending £7.9 million in the first half against depreciation of £4.8 million. The full year's expenditure should be much the same as the previous year at £21 million.

The balance sheet also remains strong with the year-end cash pile expected to be an unchanged £24 million.

Analysts are shading back full-year profit estimates to around £53 million, largely on dollar considerations. They have £57 million pencilled in for the following year.

The effects of higher raw material prices, particularly cashmere, are not expected to be felt on profits until the second half of next year.

The prospective p/e at barely 8½ looks very undemanding, even in these sorry markets. The prospective yield, after a 14.3 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 2.4p, is 6 per cent.

Challenge to BPB

Observers of the plasterboard industry must rue the day they dismissed past announcements from the British supremo, BPB Industries, as lacking detail. Compared with the new-style releases, they were a mine of information.

It is surely more than a coincidence that BPB has changed the presentation of its figures, preferring a broad classification — "building product" and "paper and packaging" — to splitting the figures further on a geographic basis.

Flaunting the well-known profitability of plasterboard manufacture has clearly encouraged others to challenge BPB's position. To reveal extra information was seen as playing into the hands of the competition, itself more coy.

Yet, having been the sole domestic manufacturer, BPB is now faced with a threat from two new entrants. The Anglo-Australian group, Redland and CSR, is the more serious as Knauf, the German, may be no more than a sabre-rattling, following

BPB's move into its market.

All this may presage a greater degree of international competition. Plasterboard is an important building material, the consumption of which is still relatively low. Although the cost of entry remains high, the increasing size of building materials groups reduces the relative expense.

Until the crunch comes, BPB continues to reduce its cost base. The investment in a new plaster mill in Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire, is expected to have a significant impact. Capital expenditure will amount to at least £150 million in the next five years.

Buoyant trading also helps. Overall volumes were up by approaching 10 per cent, and prices at least matched inflation.

Pretax profits for the year to end-March should touch £190 million. On 8.4 times earnings, the rating is reasonable. But with the threat of new entrants looming, the premium rating is a thing of the past.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings: November 18. Last Dealings: November 27. Last Declaration: February 18. For Settlement: February 29. Call options were taken out on: 25/11/87 Bristol Channel, Hawley Group, Farnham, Lantira, Rainers, Seale, Wharfedale, Sound Diffusion, Plessey.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Admiral 1,371	Costa 315	Land Sea 1,167	Rover 223
Ad-Lyon 1,371	ICI 795	Laporte 68	Royal Bank 685
Amstar 422	Cons Gold 537	L&G 198	Royal Ind 1,088
ASDA 2,228	Cookson 82	Lloyds 1,432	Satchell 1,452
AB Foods 159	Courtaulds 2,018	Lovell 250	Seaboard 423
Agri 1,378	Delaney 71	Lucas 155	S&N 436
BAA 1,673	D&E 2,850	Magnet 2,841	Sears 1,758
BET 874	Dunlop 329	M&S 1,581	Sedgwick 243
BIR 375	ECC 137	Marwell Gm 46	Shed 49
BAT 1,559	Emviro 71	MEPC 452	Smith & M 643
Bardays 597	Ferranti 2,942	Metal Box 251	STC 775
Bell 112	Fisons 201	Midland 4,198	Stan Chart 518
Bendish 1,046	G&A 18	Natwest 735	Shawcross 423
Bentley 85	GEC 2,661	Neri 330	Sun Africa 70
BICC 186	Globe 783	New Food 13	T & N 1,011
Blue Arrow 794	Globe 31	P&O 122	Tarmac 152
Bull Crust 629	Gordon 62	Pearl 980	Tate & Lyle 379
BOC 177	Grand Met 917	Pearson 1,599	TSB 1,088
Bonoli 523	GUS A 414	Pfaffington 775	Tesco 1,112
BP 3,458	GRE 118	Plessey 4,920	Thorn EMI 1,399
Br Aero 990	GKN 376	Prudential 2,345	Transtar 5,618
Br Airways 792	Guinness 263	Rail 2,345	THE 714
Br Gas 103	Hamm A 28	Rh Hovis 555	Unicover 426
Br Gas 7,688	Hawley 437	RSC 85	Unilever 1,141
Br Petroli 6,540	Hawley 437	Redland 792	Unibed 505
Br Telecom 286	Hillsdown 804	Read 1,884	Unid Mems 174
Burnham 1,194	ICI 699	Reckitt 230	Unicover 1,419
Burns 7,285	ICI 699	RMC Gp 209	Whitson 406
Cadbury 775	Jaguar 642	RTZ 1,088	Wales Fab 356
	Leasing 71	Woodward 2,672	Woolworth 38
	Ladbroke 61	Rothmans 3,052	Expenses page 38

EMS:

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Datapost

EMS



Pringle
profit

Rothmans
£398m ca

BS challenge

Time to
change
partners

Pringle
profit

Pringle knitwear group lifts profit 21% at half time

By Alison Eadie

Dawson International, Scotland's leading textile group and manufacturer of Pringle and Braemar knitwear, lifted pretax profits by 21 per cent to £19.04 million in the half year to end-September. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £176.9 million.

Retailers resumed ordering after being left with high stock levels last year when US visitors stayed away because of the Libyan bombing and Chernobyl disaster. Dawson felt the benefit of the restocking in its raw material processing and hosiery spinning companies where profits rose.

The non-knitwear businesses also saw higher levels of activity and profit, with the leading contributors in Britain being Blackwood Brothers carpet, yarn spinning and Dawson Fur Fabrics, and in America, JE Morgan Knitting Mills, which makes thermal clothing and Associated Products, which manufactures shower curtains.

Dawson is the largest manufacturer of thermal underwear in the world and nearly all its output is sold in America. About one-third of its manufacturing turnover is in the US, which led to an adverse £600,000 currency effect on first-half profits because of the decline of the dollar.

The new acquisitions, Cowper and Tordoff and Pennine Fur Fabrics, two Yorkshire companies involved in the manufacture and distribution of fur fabrics, were trading ahead of last year. Their results were not included in



Ronald Miller, Dawson chairman, with Georgina Salter (left) modelling the £600 Pringle 'Matchplay' cashmere sweater and Sue Lyon, wearing the £250 'Ruffles' cashmere sweater

first-half profits, but they made about £200,000 in the one month under Dawson.

Dawson is still looking for acquisitions, although there is nothing in the pipeline. Mr Ronald Miller, the chairman, said there were plenty of opportunities in the textile industry.

All companies, including those in the US, are extremely busy, Mr Miller said. He added, however, that the lower value of the dollar and

higher raw material costs were bound to have some adverse effect on group trading.

Raw material costs, quoted in dollars, rose by 30 per cent in the first half. The weakening dollar dampened what would have been worse increases in local currency terms.

Cashmere prices are rising sharply because of liberalization of economic policies in China, a leading cashmere producer. Entrepreneurs can

now buy from goat farmers instead of the previous centralized buying, which has led to an increase in suppliers and a shortage of cashmere. Dawson is the largest single cashmere buyer in the world.

Mr Miller said there was great underlying strength in the group's companies and he hoped that lack of confidence in world stock markets would not carry over to the consumer sector and depress demand for consumer products.

Tempos, page 26

Labour call for action on steel

By Colin Narborough

Labour MPs representing Britain's main steelmaking areas yesterday called on the Government to fight for extra production quotas for British steelmakers, or complete freedom from EEC restraints.

The appeal, contained in a detailed response on the problem of Europe's surplus steel capacity, followed the unveiling in Brussels on Wednesday of EEC proposals that called for an end to the quota system, that is nearly eight years old, on most steel products by next July and for the rest by 1990.

The Government made no immediate comment on the proposals, but Britain has argued strongly in favour of scrapping quotas, and is unlikely to support the Commission's proposals.

Not only would a return to a free market suit Mrs Thatcher's wider philosophy, it would also give the British Steel Corporation scope for boosting output and preparing itself for flotation.

As the Commission's plan involves funding from the EEC's general budget, it will require unanimous approval by ministers. A single vote against will mean that the present system of quotas will end on December 31.

The response from the Parliamentary Labour Party's steel sub-committee, chaired by Mr Stan Crowther, the MP for Rotherham, said the real threat to British steel-making was that the Government's obsession with privatization could lead a privatized industry to make capacity cuts instead of seeking sales.

The committee said that since 1979, Britain had shed two-thirds of its steelworkers, compared with only an average of one third for the EEC as a whole. Now it was being held back by quotas — a penalty for increased efficiency.

The EEC exercise in cutting back capacity should therefore pose no threat to Britain which has already made its "fair share" of cut-backs.

The MPs said they were not calling for an unlimited market share for BSC and private sector British producers, but wanted a fair market share based on increased sales in line with resurgent demand in Britain. The alternative was a large increase in steel imports. Three of West Germany's largest steel makers, Krupp Stahl, Mannesmann and Thyssen said in a joint press release that they are studying ways jointly to lower production costs in the greater Duisburg area.

Great power struggle gathers momentum

As the battle of words and figures over electricity privatization and the need to inject competition intensifies, the financial practicalities are in danger of being lost. The Central Electricity Generating Board, whose headquarters is in the City but whose corporate mind is far away, has scarcely played this card in its attempt to avoid dismemberment.

Mr Christopher Beauman of Morgan Grenfell, however, reminded a seminar organized by the Centre for Policy Studies competition lobby yesterday that City investors might not think highly of a group of five capital-intensive generating companies slugging it out. As he pointed out from experience in the steel industry, that tends to lead to ragged profit and price cycles. Heavy investment and cutthroat competition is followed by informal cartels as all participants try to recover profitability and then build high returns until the cycle starts all over again.

At present the most concrete proposals for combining full-scale competition with quick privatization are those put forward by Allen Sykes in the influential CPS pamphlet *Current Choices*. These involve a complex transition phase during which large private sector companies take management control of quoted area electricity boards, which temporarily own the generating company before breaking it up. It is hard to see investors understanding that, let alone backing it. The area boards offer a swift and simple road to privatizing a safe part of the industry to small investors, which would be lost. And

direct "City" control, however temporary, would be hard to market politically.

Cecil Parkinson gave the CPS line his personal nod of approval with an opening statement backing competition and contrasting the modestly effective CPS lobbying with the CEB's expensive PR efforts. But political constraints on competitive solutions are looming ever larger.

It is evident that the greatest savings could come from lower coal prices. Yet the Energy Secretary is already anxious to demonstrate that he does not see privatization leading to British Coal output being cut in half.

Mrs Thatcher's overriding priority of building nuclear power stations is likely to cause even more problems. There is general agreement that competitive generating companies would not order nuclear power stations. Yet it would be politically disastrous for the nuclear industry if the Government accepted that reactors would only be built by government fiat overriding commercial judgement.

While competition might bring more efficiency, there are some reasons to think it could raise prices to consumer/voters rather than reduce them. After the latest imposed price rise, that is not a prospect Mr Parkinson can live with in his final privatization proposals.

The debate over the industry's future structure should be settling down by now. Instead, it is looking more open than ever.

Painful dilemma for BT

British Telecom is between the devil and the deep blue sea. It is taking a battering from the public which wants a better quality of service. Pressure groups clamour for the scrap of chairman Iain Vallance. Investors, meanwhile, are pushing for better financial performance, especially in the one area which can have a sizeable impact on the bottom line — staff reductions.

The problem for Mr Vallance is that the two objectives are to a large extent incompatible. The greater the resources devoted to improving the service, the less satisfactory will be the immediate gains in earnings per share. It was this assessment which accounted for the lukewarm City response to BT's interim profits statement yesterday.

It would be easy to miscast the City in the role of grasping taskmaster, heedless of the hardships caused by further cuts in BT's workforce, bloated though it is by international standards despite a steady loss of 4,000 to 5,000 jobs annually over the past few years. But when BT effectively abandons staff cuts for a year or two, as it did yesterday,

investors must ask where the momentum for earnings growth will come from in the short-term.

The volume of BT's huge business grows at a steady and fairly stable rate that is not easy to shift into a higher gear at short notice. Its prices are in the straight-jacket of a formula related to the rate of retail price inflation. Not much room for manoeuvre here. That leaves costs as the biggest variable.

A number of factors have been working against BT's efforts to contain costs and to continue the streamlining of its workforce. The peak load of the changeover to digital exchanges, the backlog of work from the engineers' strike, the high profile commitment to improving quality and the fact that the business is still growing are just a few.

Analysts were trimming their expectations for the full year in the light of all of this.

Nevertheless, BT's shares already have most of these elements factored in. They stand at a discount to the market average rating of perhaps 20 per cent and the yield of around 6 per cent appears to take care of most of the risks.

Rothmans reveals £398m cash pile

By Colin Campbell

Rothmans International had net liquid funds of £398.6 million on September 30, £70.3 million up from March 31, Mr Robert Crichton-Brown, executive chairman, says in the interim report.

Pretax profits in the six months ended September rose from £73.8 million to £140 million, on a turnover which, because of discontinued operations, fell from £726 million to £671 million.

In all of the previous financial year, Rothmans's pretax profits totalled £195.5 million.

The higher result, achieved after a £7 million charge for rationalization measures, compared with a £6 million charge previously, reflects improved profitability within tobacco operations.

The interim dividend rises

from 2.5p to 3p a share, paid from fully diluted earnings up from 9.5p to 20p a share. On the stock market, the shares rose 10p to 397p.

Tobacco interests turned in operating profits of £138.3 million (£77.6 million), and luxury consumer products £31.3 million (£20.5 million).

The changed financial structure of Rothmans International following the conversion of most of the outstanding bonds now sees Rothmans Tobacco (Holdings) with a 33.1 per cent equity stake and 43.02 per cent of the votes. Philip Morris Inc with 29.35 per cent of the equity and 24.99 per cent of the votes and other shareholders with 37.54 per cent of the equity, and 31.98 per cent of the votes.

Platinum price 'set to fall next year'

By Our City Staff

The average price of platinum looks set to drop to about \$510 (£284.28) per ounce next year from \$536 this year, as the world surplus continues.

This price forecast is contained in the *Annual Review of the World Platinum Industry 1987*, published yesterday by Shearson Lehman Brothers, the metal traders.

The review, prepared by Miss Rhona O'Connell, Shearson's chief bullion analyst in London, concludes that the market is oversupplied and looks set to stay that way.

The nature of the market's 21 per cent price fall after Black Monday underlines the fact that the summer rally was based on hope rather than demand.

After spending much of the year over the \$550 level,

platinum has fallen below \$470, but should manage to end the year close to \$500.

World supply, including newly-mined and recycled scrap, is projected to rise by 10 per cent this year to 105.2 tonnes and add a further 3 per cent next year. While demand is only expected to grow 6.5 per cent this year to 95.1 tonnes, a 6 per cent jump is anticipated in 1988.

The largest source of demand, catalytic cleaners for car exhausts, should show a small decline this year, but rally to 34.4 tonnes next year. Scrap from old autocatalysts surfaced this year for the first time in significant amounts in the US, where such devices have been used for 10 years. The jewellery industry is likely to use 28.5 tonnes this year

BS challenges with three new ship designs

By Our City Staff

British Shipbuilders, the state-owned merchant shipbuilders, yesterday gave a foretaste of three new designs that will fill out the portfolio of vessel types the corporation hopes will help restore its fortunes.

The new designs, which complement three announced in March, are the Contact, a compact container ship, Reeflex, a refrigerated cargo vessel, and Ice Questor, a polar research vessel.

Mr John Lister, the chairman, will head a marketing team that will launch the new designs at an international

shipping exhibition in Shanghai next month during an intensive sales drive in the Far East.

Despite the battle for survival by the British yards against the cut-price competition of the South Koreans, he was not pessimistic. He said: "Shipbuilding is coming out of a long depression."

To meet the challenge, BS decided to lay greater emphasis on building high-efficiency vessels whose operating costs more than compensate for any price disadvantage in relation to ships built in the Far East. BS was now confident that

it would receive orders for its new designs by the middle or end of next year. Laid-up tonnage was at a seven-year low, the price gap between secondhand ships and new vessels had narrowed and the economies offered by new designs were considerable, Mr Lister said.

But, he added, new orders would not necessarily mean more jobs at BS yards.

An encouraging factor has been that both the Japanese and West German currencies have appreciated more against the dollar than sterling, heightening the competitive-

ness of British yards, he noted.

It was also hoped that, as shipbuilding emerges from its worst recession since the Second World War, the South Korean yards would pick up more orders than they had capacity for, allowing demand to spill over to other countries.

BS's closest competitors are currently the Scandinavian and West German shipbuilders.

Mr Fabian King, marketing director, said that the three new vessel types presented in March had aroused considerable interest.

Time to change partners

No fewer than 10 ex-partners in L Messel, the stockbroker now owned by Shearson Lehman, were, I hear, among the 150 London staff sacked by the US securities house in the past two months. Among the more distinguished heads to roll in the pogrom were Mark Cannon, Brookes and Jonathan Carr, both members of Messel's managing committee. Shearson decently allowed the unlucky directors time to find other employment. But it is a sign of the City's current paranoia over job security that one legend — denied by Shearson — had the ten directors herded into a windowless room with one telephone between them with which to sort out their respective futures. Coupled with the earlier departure of four directors from Messel's sales department, it means that the broking firm has now lost almost half of the 40-odd partners it had when it was taken over. The most recent sackings have been across the board, with the previously large sales team worst hit and the corporate finance department also suffering its fair share of dismissals.

Friends from America tell me that Senator Joe Biden of Delaware, one of the Democrats' "seven dwarfs" who withdrew from the Presidential race after making speeches in the manner — and indeed, the phrasing of Neil Kinnock, among others — has plans to write his autobiography. The working title? *Jacocca*.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Success for the doctor

Ronnie Aitken, the company doctor with an impressive record of turning round then selling off companies, looks set to do it again. Having done just that with Barker and Dobson, he yesterday found himself on the receiving end of a £3.5 million tender offer for 51 per cent of his latest fledgling company, the London restaurant and catering chain Bentley's. Worth

17p a share, the offer from Canadian-based Petrogold is at a 6p premium to Bentley's Rule 535-quoted share price. The Bentley's directors yesterday said they were "considering the offer," but City whippersnappers tell me they might well accept. If these things run in three, could clothing retailer Martin Ford, where Aitken is also chairman, be next?

Bubbling up

With his winter '87 couture collections successfully off the catwalk, and preparations well under way for next year's spring and summer offerings, to be shown in February, Manny Silverman (below), the saviour of Royal dressmaker Norman Hartnell, seems to



have put his unhappy departure from Moss Bros — where, after 40 years' loyal service he became chief executive — well and truly behind him. To help him celebrate his well-deserved success, and to help wash away any best-forgotten memories, I am sending him a magnificent magnum of Krug grande cuvée champagne. The house of Hartnell, which counts the Queen Mother among its clients, had losses of £950,000 when Manny rescued it from the receiver in July, and is now firmly on a three-year turn-around path. The wholesale ready-to-wear business has been temporarily suspended, but the couture and ready-to-wear business in the famed Bruton Street salon is continuing with renewed vigour. During the three-day summer couture show, where dresses cost around £2,000 apiece, I am told that the average age of the delighted clientele fell by an estimated 10 years with each showing.

Waves of siren song

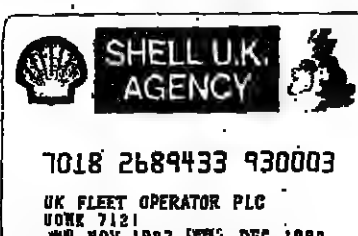
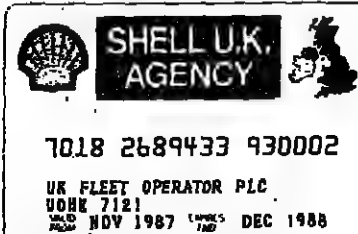
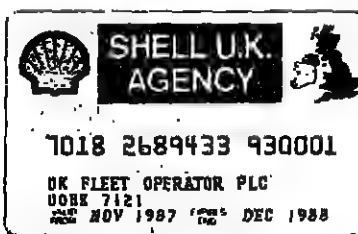
Hot from Gainesville, Georgia, the latest newsletter from rock musician-turned-Elliott Wave theorist Robert Prechter, has landed on my desk. With his bearish Wall Street messages of late attributed by some as being a partial cause of the crash of '87, it is interesting to learn that he is now singing a very different tune. Whilst saying that he thinks the Dow could hit a new low within the next three months — "the decline in stocks from the August high should bottom during the next three months" — he goes on to predict that in 1988 equities will undergo "a substantial countertrend rally," peaking, perhaps, in November. "Most time forecasting tools support a bullish case for most of 1988," he says. For bonds and gold, his predictions are less promising. "Bonds are near a short-term peak within a major bear market," he says. "Gold is completing a top formation, and is vulnerable to a persistent decline into 1988." So now you know...

Winning ways

Andrew Beeson, a director of McCaughan Dyson CCM, and colleagues who run its smaller companies team, were yesterday handed a double excuse to crack open the champagne. For it was CCM which sponsored Body Shop, the winner of the CBI's Company of the Year award, and of Sock Shop, the runner-up. "It must be quite unusual for the sponsoring broker to get both the one and two slot," says a delighted Beeson.

Carol Leonard

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

Frederick Cooper in £1.85m acquisition

Frederick Cooper, the industrial holding group, is buying Brent Group for a maximum £1.85 million. Brent manufactures and distributes socket extension leads, electrical leads, electrical enclosures, instrument cases and tools and production aids used exclusively in the electrical, electronic and sheet metal industries.

Its subsidiaries made combined pretax profits of £366,000 in their last financial years on turnover of £1.58 million compared with £186,000 on a turnover of £1.68 million in the previous year. Brent has cash balances at present of about £600,000, in addition to assets of nearly £500,000.

Buy for CH Industrials

CH Industrials, the industrial holdings company, is buying William Deakin (Birmingham) for a maximum £650,000. Deakin is a specialist metal pressings company whose high-quality heavy pressings work is used mainly in transport-related industries. Its annual turnover is £2 million. Assets being acquired were worth £632,000 at the end of August.

Finance firm advances

Moorgate Mercantile Holdings, the instalment credit finance and leasing group, in which Mr John Gunn's Woodchester, the Irish lessor, holds a near-30 per cent stake, has reported higher interim earnings. Pretax profits for the six months to September 30 were £1.2 million against £0.8 million last year. The interim dividend rises from 0.65p to 0.95p.

Century Oils ahead

Century Oils Group, the specialist manufacturer and distributor of lubricants which raised £11.5 million via a one-for-four rights issue at 195p each in July, is lifting its interim dividend from 1.6p to 1.75p a share after reporting interim pretax profits of £2.85 million compared with £2.51 million.

Interest payments remained high in the first half at £987,000 compared with £921,000, but are expected to fall in the second half because of the benefits from the rights issue money and because savings are being made in working capital. Turnover in the six months ended September 30 was £45.7 million against £44.6 million previously. The board says trading momentum is being maintained. The shares were steady on results at 158p.

Harland and Wolff likely to report near £58m loss

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

Harland and Wolff, the state-owned Belfast shipbuilder, is expected to announce a loss of almost £58 million in its 1986-87 annual report to be published soon.

The loss is more than £30 million above the £26.8 million loss recorded in 1985-86 and will require "significant" increases in government assistance to the shipyard next year, Mr Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary, told the Commons this week.

With 22 per cent of its workforce being paid off between January and September, the costs of redundancies and physical restructuring have swollen the latest loss by more than £25 million.

Several million pounds more have stemmed from late design changes by the Ministry of Defence to a helicopter training ship nearing completion for the Royal Navy and

by GEC's failure to deliver on time vital components for BP's £100 million-plus single well oil production ship (Swops). This is claimed to be the most complex civil vessel ever conceived and is designed to exploit otherwise unworkable small oilfields beneath the North Sea.

The Belfast company is to lodge claims for compensation worth several millions against the Defence Ministry and GEC in the hope of ameliorating its overall loss.

GEC is blamed by H&W for adding to the cost of building Swops, by being up to nine months late with delivery of its heavy electrical gear. Huge switchboards were to have been delivered in February and March and to have been built into one large structural module which was then to have been assembled into the

hull, immediately beneath the superstructure.

When the switchboards were late, the module had to be installed empty to enable construction to proceed and only in recent weeks have they begun arriving in Belfast.

"We are having to shoehorn them in through large temporary openings left in the hull and it has cost an enormous amount of money to build the ship in another way," said a senior H&W executive.

Structural work on the extremely complex ship has gone well but electrical cabling and systems commissioning is months behind and the yard is negotiating with BP for a new delivery date next autumn.

H&W executives are critical of the ability, within GEC, to manage projects horizontally across its many vertically organized subsidiaries, many of which report directly to the

chairman, Lord Weinstock, but, seemingly, have little contact with each other. They liken the situation to those which afflicted the electrical giant's tribulations with the now cancelled Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft and, latterly, the long-delayed Foxhunter radar for the RAF's Tornado F3 fighters.

Ministry of Defence design changes during conversion of a German-built container ship to become the Royal Navy's latest aviation training ship the RFA Argus together with other difficulties H&W encountered led to its entering service with the RN at least six months late.

The need to strip out large quantities of asbestos insulation and to chip, rather than burn, off toxic lead paint when the vessel was gutted for conversion were among the costly problems encountered.

CCA Galleries to acquire publishers for £8.9m

By Our City Staff

CCA Galleries, the USM-quoted retailer of prints, paintings and sculptures, is making two purchases for a maximum £8.9 million.

It is buying Henry Ling & Son (London), a publisher of greeting cards, for up to £5.75 million and has an option agreement to acquire Alan Hutchinson Publishing Com-

pany, a publisher of diaries and address books, for up to £3.15 million.

CCA also announced it made pretax profits in the first half to the end of June of £209,000 on a turnover of £2.4 million. In the comparative first half, it made profit of £223,000 on turnover of £1.99 million. Good growth was seen in all sectors in Britain

and in Japan the market has resumed its strong growth pattern.

The proposed acquisitions will more than double the size of the company. The acquisition of Hutchinson is conditional on it making pretax profits in the year to the end of December of at least £125,000.

CCA is raising £5.15 million gross by the open offer to

shareholders of 4.1 million new shares at 125p each on a one-for-one basis.

The cash will be used to meet the £1.75 million cash consideration in the payment for Ling. It will also provide additional working capital and be put on deposit to meet the deferred payment of up to £2 million for Ling.

Savings spread by inheritance, survey says

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Passing on the homes of post-war owner-occupiers to the next generation could disperse financial savings through the economy more widely. A new paper, produced by economists at Morgan Grenfell, shows that the big rise in home ownership since the Second World War will produce important financial effects over the next few years, as these homes are passed on through inheritance.

Among the main effects could be:

- A wider dispersion of financial wealth in the economy
- Greater demand for financial assets
- Lower prices for housing relative to financial assets
- More borrowing on mortgages
- Increased demand for discretionary savings media, such as unit trusts and single premium life policies, relative to non-discretionary savings like additional voluntary contributions to pension funds.

According to Ms Joanne Curley, who wrote the paper, property inheritance is now running at about £7 billion a year, compared with £3.7 billion - adjusting for inflation - in 1970. By 1990 this will rise to £7.7 billion and to £13 billion by the end of the century.

The effect of passing on the family home is to convert physical assets into financial assets, as inherited homes are sold. It will also increase mortgage lending as the third parties to whom the properties are sold borrow to pay for them.

The prospect of inheriting large property assets may restrain middle-aged workers from adding to their pension commitments, for example through AVCs, such as the Government is trying to promote. Where the inheritors are already owner-occupiers, as the majority of them will be, most of them will realize their inheritance for cash.

Some of the money raised will be spent and some will be saved. The savings are more likely to go into lump sum investments with high accessibility - such as building society accounts, unit trusts and equities - than into long-term commitments involving steady monthly payments such as pensions.

Housing inheritance could thus be an important route through which home ownership is extended to share ownership.

While the beneficiaries are accumulating financial assets, those to whom they sell their homes will be taking on financial liabilities in the form of mortgages.

Holograph firm to raise £8.2m

By Alison Eadie

Applied Holographics, the world leader in the three-dimensional science of holography, yesterday announced a one-for-four rights issue at 300p a share to raise £8.2 million net of expenses.

Mr Ossie Boxall, chairman and chief executive, said that opportunities were arising for joint ventures abroad and the company had to act now, regardless of the stock market crash. There is already more than £2 million cash in the bank.

Applied Holographics shares, which are quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, were at a high of 655p earlier this year. They dropped 39p to 344p on news of the rights issue.

The opportunities for joint ventures are in the United States, West Germany, Spain, Japan and South Africa, and could concern the export of both holocopyers and materials. The company will also use the rights issue proceeds to expand its marketing and sales force by about 20 people.

Mr Boxall said holography had had wonderful exposure through the company's large-scale contracts with Nabisco breakfast cereals and Tropicana, the American boys' group. Most of the new overseas interest in holograms was for promotional purposes, rather than for security holograms such as those found on bank cheque cards, Mr Boxall said.

The department making embossed holograms has done creative design work and initial small orders have been filled for customers in the entertainment, pharmaceutical, toy, consumer durable, packaging and graphics industries.

Mr Boxall said this was a transitional year, from being a development company to a high-volume production company. Last year to the end of March Applied Holographics made a pretax loss of £823,000, and it will probably remain in the red this year because of investment costs at its Tyne and Wear plant and in Switzerland.

BASF rises 0.4% on currency blow

Ludwigshafen (Reuters) - Pretax profits at BASF, the chemicals group, rose only 0.4 per cent to DM2.16 billion (£720 million) in the first nine months of this year because of the mark's rise against the currencies of leading trading partners.

Herr Hans Albers, the management board chairman, said the dollar's decline was "certainly painful to some of our sectors, such as crop protection or dyestuffs."

But he added that BASF was optimistic about the first half of next year and expected pretax profit this year to reach the 1986 level. "If nothing significant happens, BASF will pay a double-digit dividend (on 1987 earnings)," Herr Albers said.

BASF paid a dividend of DM10 on 1986 earnings.

Herr Ronaldo Schmitz, a management board member, said currency changes depressed group pretax profit by DM42 million in the first nine months, after boosting it by DM189 million during the same period last year.

Group pretax profit dropped 5.7 per cent to DM716 million in the third quarter compared with the same period last year, but sales rose 7 per cent to DM10.13 billion.

In the first half of this year, BASF pretax profit rose 3.7 per cent to DM1.44 billion but group sales dropped 6.4 per cent to DM20.04 billion.

BASF has met the challenge of a 17 per cent drop in the dollar, Herr Albers said, its product range was well balanced and it was less dependent on the dollar than was generally assumed. More than 90 per cent of North American business was produced locally and the ratios were 90 per cent for Brazil and 60 for Japan, he said.

Herr Albers said business activity remained at a high level worldwide, despite a 2.3 per cent decline in sales to DM30.16 billion during the first three quarters of this year.

Business was unsatisfactory in eastern Europe, western Asia and Africa, but demand was strong in western Europe, where BASF has two-thirds of its sales.

BASF's North American subsidiaries boosted sales by 14 per cent to \$3.24 billion (£2.45 billion) in the first nine months compared with the same period a year ago.

Herr Albers said pretax profits in North America were likely to rise to about \$240 million for the full year from \$192 million last year. Sales in North America were likely to rise 14 per cent to \$4.4 billion during the whole of this year, he added.

The BASF share price was undervalued, Herr Albers said. The shares had been undervalued in the past and this was even more true after the world stock markets crashed on October 19. The shares fell to DM266 this week from DM329 just before the plunge.

Herr Albers added that new West German DVFA method accounting rules were lowering BASF's earnings per share, almost entirely because of the non-inclusion of pension provisions.

Montedison 'in storm'

Milan (Reuters) - Montedison Spa, the chemical group, said yesterday that it had no comment to make on Italian press reports that its majority shareholder Signor Raul Gardini, the head of Ferruzzi, the agribusiness company, may seek to oust Signor Mario Schimberni, the president of Montedison.

La Repubblica, the Rome daily, said Signor Gardini expressed displeasure with Signor Schimberni's management during a stormy meeting

of Montedison's executive committee on Tuesday.

La Repubblica said Signor Gardini had opposed two recent large acquisitions by Montedison, including the purchase of an additional large stake in Himont, the United States polypropylene firm, for about \$1.5 billion (£838 million).

In yesterday's trading on the Milan bourse, Montedison fell 130, to L1,535. Ferruzzi Agriola closed at L1,362, up 111.

HOW CAN YOU TELL
IF A QUALIFICATION
IS WORTH THE PAPER
IT'S PRINTED ON?



Each year, nearly two million vocational qualifications are awarded in Britain. They are awarded at almost every level, in almost every field. From accountancy to welding.

Now while some are valuable to employers, others apply standards that are out of touch with the real needs of work. Too many qualifications still over-emphasize theory at the expense of practice.

What makes things worse is that while some occupations have a mass of overlapping qualifications, others have none at all.

The result is confusion. You, as an employer, can't tell just how well qualified job applicants really are.

Or which qualifications would improve the performance of your existing staff. Which creates a lack of confidence in the qualifications themselves.

Last year the government decided that something had to be done.

So the National Council for Vocational Qualifications was set up to make the system work.

To make it relevant to the needs of every business and industry. (Including your own.)

To make sure each occupation has its own clear set of qualifications.

To make the system effective and employment-led.

We do this by going to both employer and employee organisations.

They tell us the standards at work that qualifications need to meet.

If a qualification falls short we discuss the ways in which it should be changed with the awarding bodies.

When it does reach the standard however,

it's stamped with our insignia and given the title of National Vocational Qualification. Or NVQ.

That's our seal of approval. A sign that someone really will be useful to your company.

And you will be able to tell just how useful because all NVQs are classified according to occupation and level of competence.

You will also know which qualifications would help your employees increase their own efficiency and productivity. We don't give the title of NVQ easily.

For example, when we asked the retail sector to review its qualifications, none merited the title of NVQ as they stood. So now all involved are working flat out to ensure the qualifications reflect the industry's needs.

Some industries have already established appropriate standards.

As a consequence we've granted NVQ status to certain qualifications in hotel and catering, vehicle maintenance and repair, electrical contracting, as well as agriculture and the retail travel business.

But then we have also turned some down.

The NVQ is reviewing qualifications in many different fields, making sure they are worth the paper they're printed on. Because if the qualification system doesn't work, it's not just your employees who get their fingers burnt.

It's you as well.

If you think your own business or industry could benefit from our help write to the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, 222 Euston Rd., London, NW1 2BZ, for more information.



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A STATEMENT BY THE PANEL ON TAKE-OVERS AND MERGERS CONTAINING IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EX-DISTILLERS SHAREHOLDERS.

GUINNESS PLC/ THE DISTILLERS COMPANY PLC

Meetings of the full Panel took place on 25 August and 2 September 1987 concerning one aspect of the take-over of Distillers by Guinness in 1986. Guinness has commenced legal proceedings against the Panel in order to have the decisions made by the Panel at these hearings quashed through the process of judicial review on the basis, Guinness alleges, that the Panel has acted unfairly in Guinness. This will be strongly resisted by the Panel.

Neither of the hearings was concerned with assessing the behaviour of any individuals or organisations from the point of view of censure or other disciplinary action by the Panel.

The purpose of the 25 August hearing was to consider Guinness' argument that, in its view, the September hearing should not take place: the Panel did not accept that argument.

The question which concerned the Panel at the 2 September hearing was whether a purchase of some 10.6 million Distillers shares at 70p per share, on 17 April 1986, was made by a party acting in concert with Guinness for the purposes of the Code. If so, that might have important Code consequences regarding the value of Guinness' offer for Distillers. The Panel determined that the purchaser was acting in concert with Guinness. Consideration of the question of the resulting Code consequences was left over to allow discussions between Guinness and the Panel executive to take place. A meeting of the full Panel to consider the consequences was due to take place on 12 November but was postponed at the request of Guinness, legal proceedings having been commenced on 28 October.

The Panel had agreed to Guinness' request that it should be able to appeal the Panel's decisions made on 25 August and 2 September to the Appeal Committee of the Panel, but considered that any such appeal should be heard following the Panel's outstanding decision on consequences. Accordingly no meeting of the Appeal Committee has yet taken place.

If the Panel's decision on the acting in concert question continues to stand, one possible consequence is that the cash alternative under Guinness' offer for Distillers will be considered by the Panel to have been inadequate. This may mean that certain ex-Distillers shareholders will in due course become entitled to further payments. In that event, it may be necessary for such shareholders to produce evidence of certain transactions in Guinness shares and Distillers shares, in order to establish an entitlement. The Panel is concerned that, given the potential delay in the Panel's processes arising out of the current legal proceedings, persons who may have a future entitlement should act to their detriment in the meantime.

THE PANEL IS THEREFORE ISSUING THE FOLLOWING ADVICE:-

1. ACCEPTORS OF GUINNESS' CASH ALTERNATIVE SHOULD RETAIN ALL EVIDENCE THEY MAY HAVE OF THEIR ACCEPTANCES.

2. ACCEPTORS OF GUINNESS' BASIC OFFER, WHICH INCLUDED GUINNESS ORDINARY STOCK UNITS, (WHETHER OR NOT THEY ELECTED FOR EXTRA CONVERTIBLE PREFERENCE SHARES OR MORE GUINNESS ORDINARY STOCK UNITS UNDER THE OFFER).

- SHOULD RETAIN ALL EVIDENCE THEY MAY HAVE OF THEIR ACCEPTANCES;
- SHOULD RETAIN, IF THEY PURCHASED OR SOLD GUINNESS ORDINARY STOCK UNITS OR DISTILLERS SHARES AFTER 20 APRIL 1986, ALL EVIDENCE OF SUCH TRANSACTIONS AS THEY HAVE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING CONTRACT NOTES;
- SHOULD ALSO ASK THE STOCKBROKERS, THROUGH WHOM THEY MAY HAVE EFFECTED SUCH TRANSACTIONS, TO RETAIN RELEVANT EVIDENCE THEY MAY HAVE.

3. DISTILLERS SHAREHOLDERS WHO DID NOT ACCEPT GUINNESS' OFFER AND WHO PURCHASED OR SOLD EITHER DISTILLERS SHARES OR GUINNESS ORDINARY STOCK UNITS AFTER 20 APRIL 1986 SHOULD SIMILARLY RETAIN ANY SUCH EVIDENCE AND ADVISE THEIR STOCKBROKERS ACCORDINGLY.

IT IS EMPHASISED THAT THE PANEL'S DECISION ON THE ACTING IN CONCERT QUESTION IS NOW SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEEDINGS; ALSO, THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PANEL'S DECISION, IF IT STANDS, ARE STILL TO BE DETERMINED.

The Panel is endeavouring to expedite the current legal proceedings to ensure that the relevant matters are resolved at the earliest possible date. In addition, a full explanation of the background to the current issues and the Panel's approach to them will be published as soon as circumstances permit.

18 November 1987

Only 12% of adults hire cars, poll finds

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

The car and van rental market in Britain is projected to grow 9 per cent this year to £440 million, yet a market study published today indicates that only 12 per cent of adults have ever hired a car and only 6 per cent a van. In America more than half the adults have hired a car or van.

According to the study compiled for Budget Rent a Car, the British rental fleet is estimated to be about 130,000 cars and 35,000 vans. The top five operators - Europcar, Avis, Budget, Hertz and Swan National - account for 40 to 45 per cent of the total fleet though there are more than 1,500 rental operators in Britain.

Europcar has an 11 per cent share of the market, while Swan in fifth place accounts for 6 per cent.

The fast turnover of vehicles means that the rental companies buy more than 250,000 cars and vans annually.

The report says that only 26 per cent of people who have hired a vehicle in the last five years have done so more than three times.

The small proportion of users who have hired more than 10 times are largely businessmen and account for one third of the total number of rentals.

For businessmen, the most important factors determining which company is used are an all-inclusive price package and convenient location. Previous satisfaction and wide selection of vehicles are considered less important.

Almost 40 per cent of all van rental is for moving home, one third for moving large items and only 11 per cent for business.

Brierley shares 'do not reflect group strength'



Balancing act: Ron Brierley, chairman of BIL.

Auckland (Reuter) - The share price of Brierley Investments Ltd (BIL) does not appear to reflect the company's underlying strength, Mr Ron Brierley, the chairman, said yesterday.

Mr Brierley told more than 3,500 shareholders at Auckland's Chase Stadium that present market conditions presented the first opportunity in more than 10 years to buy BIL shares at a discount to tangible asset value.

"This may be a fair reflection of prevailing market sentiment, but it certainly doesn't reflect the realizable value of the assets and earnings of the group, let alone any future potential," Mr Brierley said.

BIL shares have an asset backing of NZ\$3 a share after real assets of NZ\$8.82 and liabilities of NZ\$5 a share. The shares closed at NZ\$2.34 yesterday.

Mr Brierley said he expected BIL shares to have a theoretical value of well below NZ\$2 after the planned one-for-four bonus issue. But he did not expect shares to be available at these levels after the one-for-10 cash issue.

BIL was less likely to em-

bark on new investments because of the share price fall and would reduce its overall debt instead, in view of New Zealand's high interest rates.

But he added BIL had always coped with balancing long-term development with maximum immediate profitability. The fall of share values accelerated as the source of borrowed money, which had fuelled the price spiral over recent years, dried up.

"Also, the diminishing quality of many newer listings in recent years will place these companies under great strain in the present climate and further casualties can be expected to prolong the unsettled conditions," Mr Brierley said.

Shareholders could expect an update on BIL's financial position and earnings outlook as soon as possible next year.

In a lighter vein, Mr Brierley assured one shareholder there was no contradiction between BIL's intention to remain a "value investor" and its investment in Playboy Enterprises of the US.

"It is very good value in what I assure you is purely an accounting and financial sense," he said.

Imry in £75m credit line

By John Bell, City Editor

Imry International, the property investment and development group, has arranged a £75 million medium-term multi-currency facility to refinance short-term debt and to fund further acquisitions.

Imry, formed early this year through a merger of Arbutnot Properties and Imry Property Holdings, expects about £30 million of the facility, arranged through Barclays Bank and National Westminster Bank, to be used for

rolling over existing debt.

The new group also revealed some of its potential, with sharply-improved half-time profits. At the pretax level, they showed a turnaround from a £59,000 loss last year to a profit of £2.84 million. Earnings per share were 7.17p.

In addition, the company reported progress on some of its present developments. Imry has completed the ac-

quisition of most of the Shires Shopping Centre site at Leicester.

Steady progress was being made towards obtaining planning consents for the St George's Hospital site, Hyde Park, allowing the project to start. Property developments under construction include those at Dorking, Easington, Edgware Road, and Herndon, near Dulles Airport, serving Washington DC.

Weather blow for Marston

The poor summer weather resulted in a fall in volume for Marston Thompson, the Burton-on-Trent brewer of Pedigree bitter, for the half year to end-September.

Pretax profits improved to £6.6 million, however, against £5.9 million last year on turnover up from £37.3 million to £37.6 million. The interim dividend payment is up from 0.78p to 0.85p.

Higher profits were achieved largely as a result of the surplus on sale of retail properties in the company's programme of disposing of non-viable public houses. This boosted liquid funds which are being reinvested into more profitable areas of the company's estate.

Sales remain sluggish in the second-half, although sales of Pedigree have continued to increase in the free trade. The board is particularly pleased with the managed house results, which show significantly higher profits where refurbishments have been made and catering facilities provided.

Black box maker rises

By Geoffrey Foster

Penny & Giles International, the black box flight recorder manufacturer, increased its pretax profits from £0.6 million to £0.8 million in the half-year to September 30.

The interim dividend is raised from 0.76p to 0.88p.

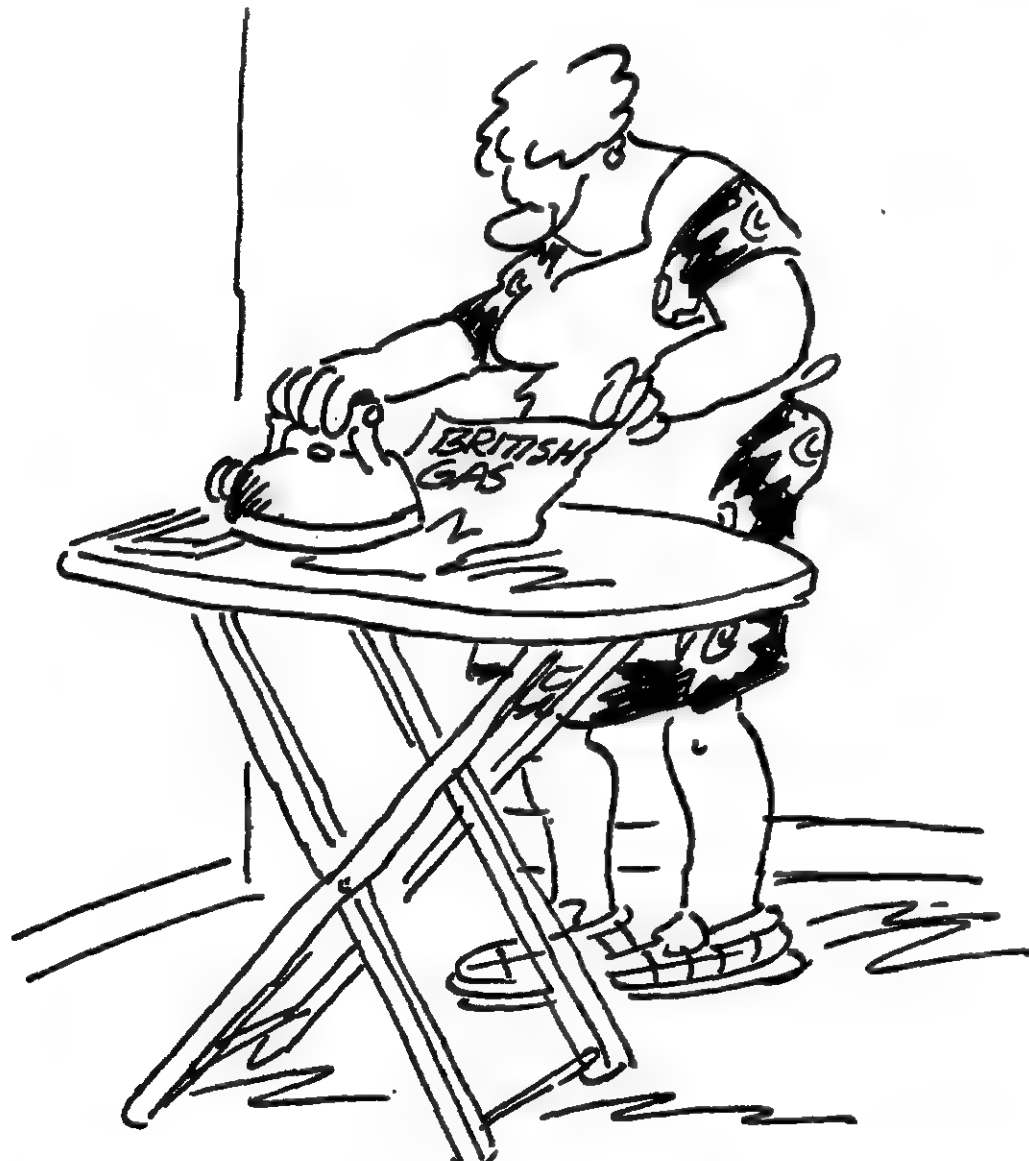
The group has four main divisions covering conductive plastics, data recording, potentiometers and transducers.

Present levels of British and export orders lead the directors to believe that the historic

pattern of organic growth will continue and they have every confidence in the company's prospects for the foreseeable future.

The factory building project being undertaken at Christchurch is nearing completion with one building already being used and providing a useful facility for the group.

Shares of Penny & Giles softened 2p to 185p on the news, having been as low as 175p at the outset.



How to iron out the peaks in your gas bills

For many people, quarterly bills can be a bit of a headache - particularly heating bills. And most of all the heating bill for the cold winter quarter.

EASY PAYMENTS SCHEME

With our Easy Payments Scheme, your total estimated gas charge for twelve months is divided into equal monthly instalments - so you don't get quarterly bills.

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With the winter coming up, now's the time to take action. That way, you can spread the cost of keeping warm during the cold

weather over the rest of the year. Take advantage of this helpful scheme now. Send off the coupon for more information.

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New Interest Rates for Woolwich Investors

from 1st December 1987	NET *paid half yearly	NET COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE	GROSS EQUIVALENT CAR for tax payers at the basic rate of 27%
Share Accounts	4.00%*	4.04%	5.53%
Cashbase Accounts	4.50%†	4.50%	6.16%
Prime Accounts			
£500-£4,999	6.00%†	6.00%	8.22%
£5,000-£9,999	6.50%†	6.50%	8.90%
£10,000-£19,999	6.75%†	6.75%	9.25%
£20,000 or more	7.00%†	7.00%	9.59%
Capital Accounts	6.75%*	6.86%	9.40%
Guaranteed Premium Shares	7.50%†	7.50%	10.27%

The annual rate of interest on all other personal accounts will be decreased by 1% from 1st December 1987. Investors not ordinarily resident in the UK may be entitled to receive interest gross with a Woolwich Prime or Capital account. Details available from the address below, as well as Woolwich branches and agencies.

Chief Office: Equitable House, London SE18 6AB.

WOOLWICH
EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY

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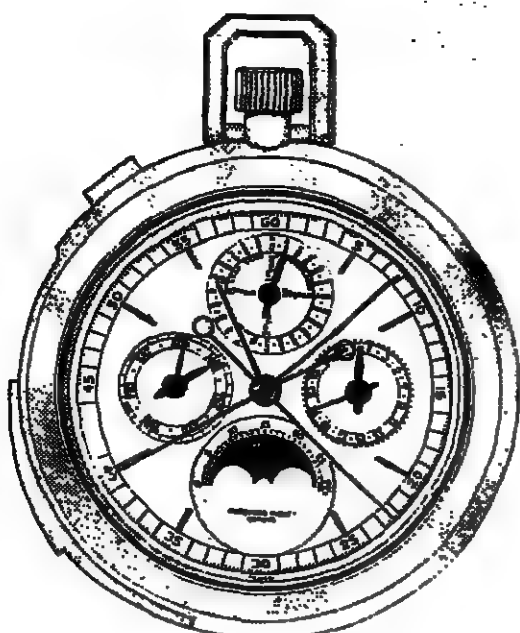
Regency Court,
206/208 Upper Fifth Street,
Central Milton Keynes

Tel: (0908) 690260.

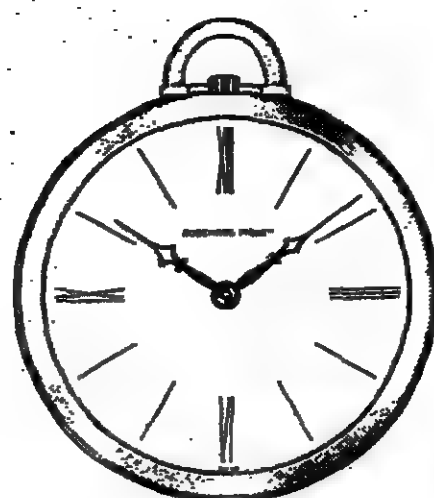
Telex: 825734. Fax: (0908) 668535

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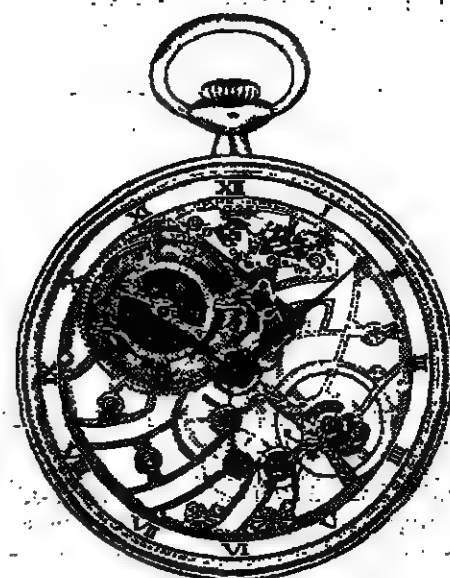
ONLY THE VERY DEDICATED CAN MAKE HISTORY.



1915. Audemars Piguet creates the "Grande Complication": an incredible time-piece with fifteen different functions, including 1/5th of a second chronograph, stop-watch, minute repeater, and both a perpetual and a lunar calendar. Ever since, Audemars Piguet has produced this master-piece on a yearly basis.



1925. Audemars Piguet creates the thinnest pocket watch ever made (1.32 mm), thus paving the way for the creation of contemporary watches.



1934. Audemars Piguet creates the first-ever pocket watch with a skeleton movement, where each and every part was, and still is to day, fashioned, engraved and assembled by hand.

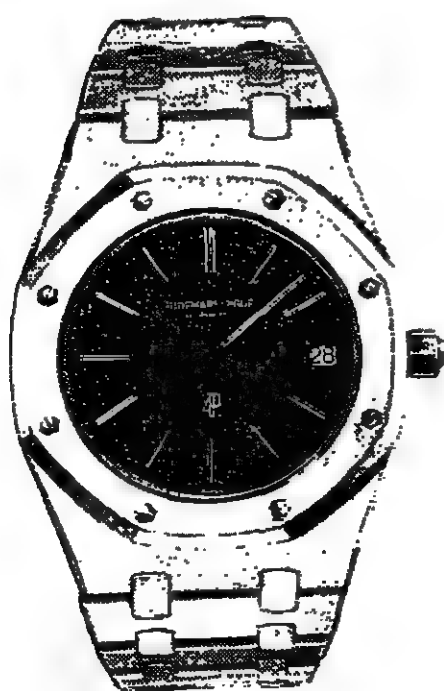


1946. Audemars Piguet creates the thinnest wrist-watch in the world (1.64 mm), equipped with a 9" movement that is still used in the current Audemars Piguet time-pieces.

When two of Switzerland's master watch-makers Jules Audemars and Edward Piguet joined forces in 1875, it was the beginning of one of the most famous horological partnerships the world would ever know. Their inventive genius combined with their technical know-how laid the foundations of what has since become the Audemars Piguet tradition. The original work of Audemars Piguet has been carried on and expanded. But the company has always adhered faithfully to its original philosophy: to strive for the ultimate perfection in watch-making.



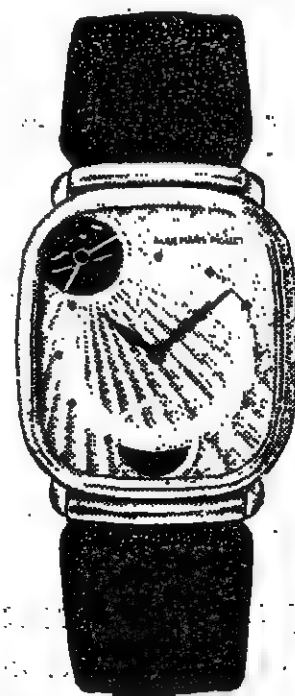
1967. Audemars Piguet creates the thinnest automatic wrist-watch in the world (2.45 mm) with central rotor in 21 kt. gold, thus opening a new chapter in the history of the mechanical watch.



1972. Audemars Piguet creates the Royal Oak, the first luxury watch in stainless steel. One of the greatest designs of the 20th century.



1978. Audemars Piguet creates the first ultra-thin automatic Perpetual Calendar wrist-watch, once again creating a trend that is to influence the entire field of watchmaking.



1986. Audemars Piguet creates the first-ever automatic wrist-watch with a tourbillon mechanism (total height 4.80 mm), one of the finest achievements in micromechanical watch-making.

Audemars Piguet

La plus prestigieuse des signatures.

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MAPPIN & WEBB, DAVID MORRIS, TYME,
THE WATCH GALLERY AND WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND

REINANK LONDON

Texaco sale 'clears way to BHP for Holmes à Court'

The outgoing directors are being replaced by three from

3 directors move in at E

The outgoing directors are being replaced by three from

The move is in line with

Mr Davies, Sir Robert Clark and Mr Dolf Mootham, the

The average entry price of the remaining 5 per cent of Texaco would, therefore, exceed US\$40 a share, Mr Story said.

Mr Thomas Thomassen, an analyst with the Dutch merchant bank Pierson, Heldring & Pierson, said Unilever's move reflected the company's tradition of steering away from raising fresh funds through share issues.

Unilever paid \$3.1 billion — then worth £2.16 billion — for Chesebrough-Pond's but has since reduced this to less than \$1.4 billion by selling parts of

"Unilever does not need the money immediately, but the recent takeover cost them a lot of money and this is a good way of bringing in fresh funds," Mr Thomassen said.

Authority payout. Authority Investments is paying an interim dividend of 2.50¢ per

payable on February 2. Results, with figures in \$000, include sales of 44,524 (41,219) and

sales of 44,244 (41,219) and profit before tax of 2,116 (1,860). Earnings per share were 11.76p (10.82p). The relaunch of *Liquorice Allsorts* had proved most encouraging, with improved sales fully justifying the

profit is mainly due to higher prices for palm and rubber products coupled with an increase in palm and kernel production.

Drayton advances
Drayton Consolidated Trust is paying a final dividend of 9p, making 12p (10.75p) for the year

Mersey Docks

Two of the biggest landlords on Merseyside have announced a deal involving the exchange of 160 acres of dockland on the

Vibroplant ahead
An interim dividend of 4.25p (3.54p) is to be paid by Vibroplant for the six months to

Company will swap land with the Merseyside Development Corporation. Mersey Docks will sell or lease 115 acres of Birkenhead docks no longer needed for shipbuilding and will

purchase from the development corporation 35 acres in Liverpool for future expansion of the port and Liverpool freeport.

Greenwich stake

Greenwich Resources, whose offer for Australia's United Goldfields Corporation closed recently, has won acceptances in excess of £2.45 million, ordinary

respect of 8.43 million ordinary shares (77.7 per cent) of United. Together with the 1.95 million United shares owned before the offer, Greenwich is now entitled to 93.6 per cent of United's group income rose to 7,714 (2,662) and pretax profit to 3,254 (819). Earnings per share were 4.24p (1.79p). The company said its aimed to use profits and cash flow from

Automotive plan
Automotive Products is inviting stockholders to approve a pro-

	Calls	Pets		Calls	Pets
Berlin Jan Apr Jul Jan Apr Jul			Union Mar May Aug Dec Jan Jun		
100	100	100	100	100	100
90	90	90	90	90	90
80	80	80	80	80	80
70	70	70	70	70	70
60	60	60	60	60	60
50	50	50	50	50	50
40	40	40	40	40	40
30	30	30	30	30	30
20	20	20	20	20	20
10	10	10	10	10	10
0	0	0	0	0	0

[illegible]

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	12 months ended 31 September (1987/88)		6 months ended 30 September 1987/88	
	1987	1986	1987	1986
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Turnover	2,547	2,362	4,954	4,614
Operating profit	622	569	1,255	1,142
Profit before taxation	539	504	1,120	1,006
Taxation	202	183	406	366
Minority interests	2	(1)	1	(2)
Preference dividend	11	16	22	32
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	344	306	691	610
Interim dividend			225	201
Earnings per ordinary share	5.7p	5.1p	11.5p	10.2p
Interim dividend per ordinary share (net)			3.75p	3.35p

The interim dividend will be paid on February 15, 1988 to shareholders on the register on January 14, 1988.

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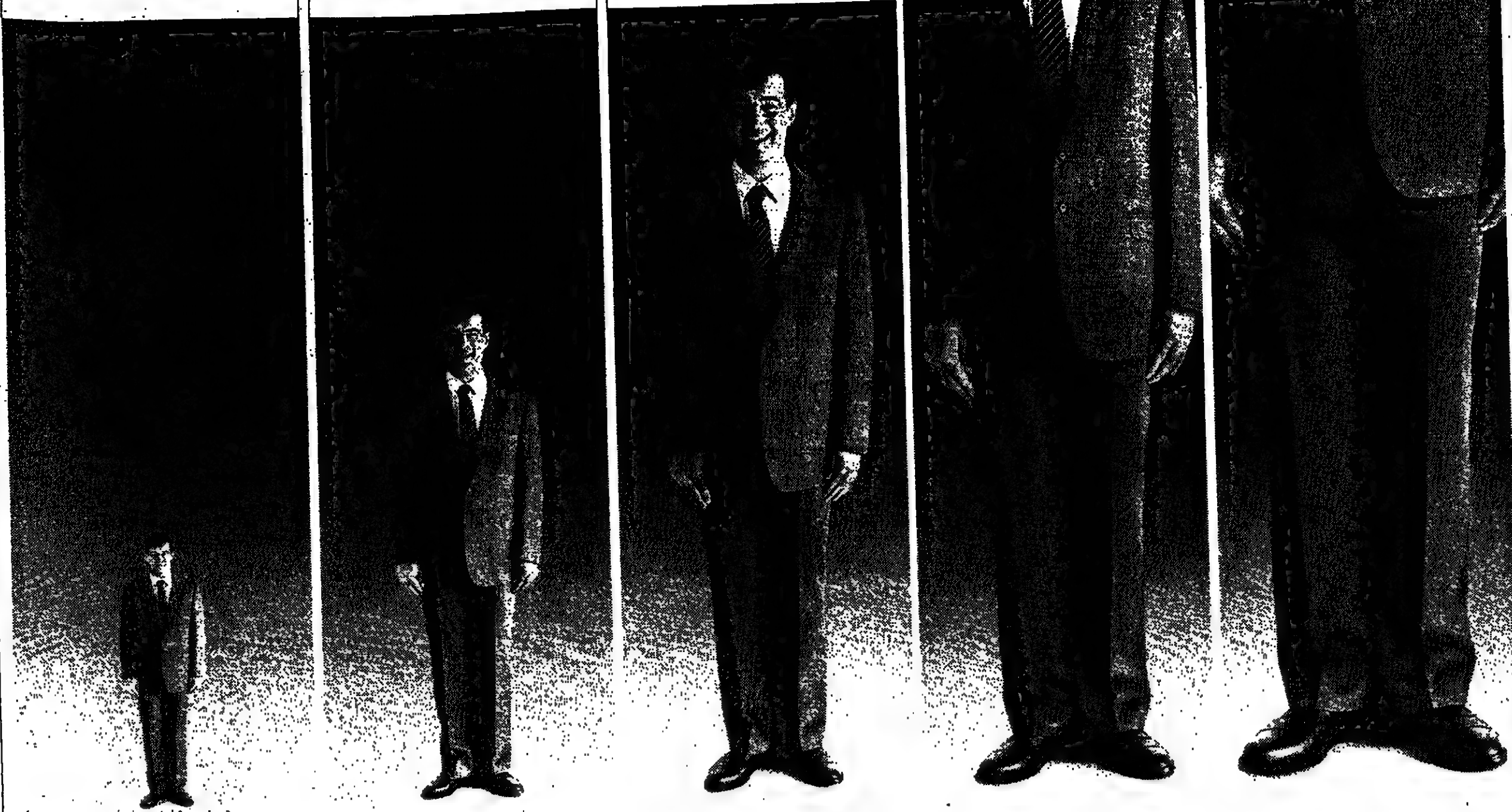
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Main stock exchange price table with multiple columns for company names, prices, and changes. Includes sub-sections like BREWERIES, BUILDING, ROADS, FINANCE, LAND, FINANCIAL TRUSTS, FOODS, CINEMAS, TV, DRAPERY, STORES, HOTELS, CATERERS, INDUSTRIALS A-D, ELECTRICALS, and S-Z.

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Table with 3 columns: High, Low, Stock. Lists various mining companies.

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Table with 3 columns: High, Low, Stock. Lists various motor and aircraft companies.

SHIPPING

Table with 3 columns: High, Low, Stock. Lists various shipping companies.

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Table with 3 columns: High, Low, Stock. Lists various shoe and leather companies.

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Table with 3 columns: High, Low, Stock. Lists various textile companies.

TOBACCO

Table with 3 columns: High, Low, Stock. Lists various tobacco companies.

The cloud over a sunshine island

A Cypriot republic already painfully adjusting to its loss of territory after the events of 1974, also faces the consequences of the impact of rapidly-growing wealth on the fragile beauty of its environment, says Alan Jenkins

Nicosia has just witnessed a storm of protest. A barrage of angry telephone calls descended on the authorities. The press called it "an outrage". The cause of this furor was the chopping down one Sunday afternoon of 200 eucalyptus trees planted some 30 years ago in British colonial times along the banks of the Pedieos river, which runs past the presidential palace.

The trees were coming down to make way for a 12-storey shopping and apartment complex. No matter that a few minutes' drive away the city is divided by a line marked with rubble-filled oil cans and the blue and white United Nations roadblocks looking like tawdry fairground booths.

It was the loss of eucalyptus trees that left the environmentalists in a state of shock.

This incident, in its modest way, represents one of the dilemmas facing Cyprus today. How do you get bigger and richer without destroying the charm of an island which has captivated so many races since history began?

It pinpoints, too, the most surprising aspect of life in Greek Cyprus: its apparent easy-going normality. With UN troops in their unlikely white-painted armoured cars and jeeps adding to the traffic confusion, and lively little streets ending with baby-faced boys from Scandinavia hugging rifles, the citizens of Nicosia can still get as heated about its trees as any Friends of Hampstead Heath.

It is now 13 years since Turkish troops invaded the north and occupied two-fifths of the country. Beyond the dividing line then lay nearly two-thirds of the agricultural

land, and the great bulk of the tourist accommodation.

Yet today the economic pointers indicate that Greek Cyprus will be going into 1988 in good shape. The government claims that the balance on the current account will show a surplus of C£50 million (about £61 million), the first in 20 years. Personal incomes have risen by 5.5 per cent, unemployment has been falling from what was already a low rate of less than 4 per cent, and inflation has been contained at 3 per cent.

This can only be good news for the President, Spyros Kyprianou, the middle-of-the-road leader of the Democratic Party, who succeeded Archbishop Makarios after his death in 1977 and fights an

A belief in benefits of customs union

election again on February 14, when the first round of voting takes place.

However hard his opponents grumble about huge foreign debts and lack of direction in the economy, there is an undeniable sense of optimism, vitality and activity, and a belief in the business community that the signing of the customs union agreement with the EEC, which comes into effect on January 1, will provide opportunities that will sharpen the competitive edge of Cyprus industry and agriculture.

Tourism and agriculture each account for around 10-12 per cent of GNP, with tourism by far the biggest earner of foreign exchange, and both looking to Britain for the largest share of custom.



A Greek Civil guardsman on the Green Line, which marks the bitter divide between Greeks and Turks

But far bigger is manufacturing, with clothing, shoes, cement and processed farm products making an important contribution to exports.

Now a fourth pillar of the economy is emerging with possibly far-reaching consequences. For several years the service industries have been growing at a remarkable rate, and for many both in government and business there is a seductive vision of Cyprus becoming the Singapore of the Middle East, and a shopping centre for Europe.

Cyprus lies only 64 miles to the west of Syria and 211 miles from Egypt, and is ready to benefit, so the argument goes, from having a strategic location between Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Once it attracted conquerors; now it can attract business at advantageous rates.

Tax incentives for offshore operations have led to the registration of 2,400 companies and 600 of these now have full office facilities with foreign and local employees. Among them are 15 banks.

Michael Zampelas, chairman of the Cyprus ports authority and managing partner of a leading firm of chartered accountants, says: "We have 340 warm and sunny days a year. The country looks Middle Eastern, thinks European, and its legal system is based on English law. There is practically no red tape here. The economy is based on private enterprise and the private sector is the backbone of economic activity."

Cyprus has recently been

elect to the council of the International Maritime Organization — a recognition of its status as a maritime nation with the world's seventh largest merchant fleet in terms of tonnage under its flag.

Shipping was one of the first offshore enterprises, led in 1972 by Haseatic, whose shipping management company now operates 150 vessels of all sizes. Among its many activities is a marine training school open free to Cypriots.

But if the economic climate looks sunny, there is still a cloud that hangs the length of the island — the continuing failure to resolve the issues that divide the Greek south from Turkish-occupied north Cyprus.

There is a strong feeling among Greek Cypriots that

although Britain believes the number of newcomers is much lower.

Nicosia suggests that the locals resent the settlers, who are a pawn in a game to retain the Turkish presence and a problem in any settlement.

The problem has raised one of the few clear-cut differences in the coming presidential election.

On the left, Ezekias Papaioannou, the craggy secretary general of Akele, the Communist Party, on whose goodwill the government has depended, not surprisingly takes the same line as the Soviet Union, where he recently received Gorbachev's blessing that the international aspect of the Turkish occupation should be debated at an international conference.

On the right, the affable

6 Middle Eastern looks, European thoughts and an English-based legal system

Anglophile Glafkos Clerides, leader of the Democratic Rally, yet again a presidential contender, says: "We believe in direct negotiation; we are opposed to any international conference. It's a waste of time. Who will agree on its composition? Who will implement the decisions?"

So far President Kyprianou and Mr Clerides have two opponents: George Vassiliou, a rich 56-year old economist with his own business consultancy, who runs as an independent backed by Akele, and the Socialist Party (Edeke) leader Dr Vassos Lyssarides.

Last month an opinion poll showed Mr Vassiliou to be ahead in the race, in front of Mr Clerides, with Mr Kyprianou trailing. The poll was carried out by the Middle East Marketing Research Bureau, which has been conducting polls with impressive predictions since 1981.

Ah, said the Democratic Party, they would, wouldn't they, because Vassiliou is head of the bureau.

This month another poll result was announced. This time it put Mr Kyprianou in first place, followed by Mr Clerides, with Mr Vassiliou trailing. Who commissioned the poll? The Democratic Party.

The loser at the moment seems to be the electorate. For the past month the public has been treated to a nightly recital of party announcements on TV. Each week, every candidate gets five minutes of TV time and every month 15 minutes. Even the government spokesman agrees that it is hard on the public, and that there should at least be a holiday from party broadcasts before February. That is the unlikely event of the election.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cyprus: a test case for the U.N.

Cyprus is the only European country whose borders are violated by a foreign army of occupation — that of her powerful neighbour, Turkey.

Surprisingly little is heard about this continuing military occupation. Yet over thirteen years have passed since Turkish forces invaded Cyprus, a sovereign state and member of both the Commonwealth and the European families. One thing is now perfectly clear: whatever form her presence will take, Turkey is bent on staying in Cyprus for ever. The pattern of her behaviour over three decades proves this beyond doubt.

Since the 1974 invasion there have been numerous attempts to solve the problem. Yet no prospect of a settlement is in sight. Why?

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has placed all its hopes for a just and peaceful solution in the machinery of the United Nations and in negotiations sponsored by it. Countless resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Security Council underline this.

If these hopes have not been fulfilled, it is because of the negative and obstructionist attitude adopted at each stage by the Turkish side.

Every U.N. resolution, including those of the Security Council, has embodied a demand for respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. Yet every call by the international community has been ignored by Ankara and the Turkish-Cypriot leadership.

The Cyprus problem, however, will not go away. For the presence of Turkey in the island is the problem.

It will remain a test case of whether violence and lawlessness can be overcome by the institutions of international legality rather than by counter-violence.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has been steadfast in its pursuit of the first of these two courses. Yet, despite a number of attempts to initiate negotiations, no effective step has been taken by the world community to restore justice and legality to Cyprus.

The facts speak for themselves:

Cyprus is still in effect partitioned by an army of occupation. At least 35,000 heavily-armed Turkish troops occupy 37% of the least 35,000 heavily-armed Turkish troops occupy 37% of the territory of the Republic and enforce the artificial separation of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

The demographic character of the island is being systematically altered by the wholesale importation into the occupied area of settlers from mainland Turkey. At present they number some 65,000, thus inflating the Turkish-Cypriot community by more than 50%.

The historical and cultural character of the occupied area is being obliterated. Churches are looted, cemeteries desecrated, being obliterated. Churches are looted, cemeteries desecrated, historical treasures exported openly and placenames turned into Turkish, in a crude attempt to erase the island's rich Hellenic past.

This all adds up to a methodical programme to turn the occupied part of Cyprus into a province of Turkey, no more, no less. The steps Ankara has taken to consolidate its stranglehold are clearcut.

First, there was the declaration in February 1975 of a "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus". There followed the gradual expulsion — for alleged "security reasons" — of some 20,000 Greek-Cypriots who had remained enclaved in the occupied area after the invasion. Then, as these left, they were replaced by an influx of so-called "seasonal workers" from mainland Turkey. Next, in November 1983, came full-blown secession in the form of a UDI, as a purportedly "independent republic" made its appearance in the north. After that there was an exchange of "ambassadors" between Ankara and occupied Nicosia, followed by a "referendum" and "elections". And most recently Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has openly threatened to seek international recognition of his "state" if the Cyprus Government raises the problem — as indeed it will — at the current session of the U.N. General Assembly.

A few days ago it was announced that the President of Turkey, General Kenan Evren, intends to pay a visit to the occupied area of Cyprus, possibly before the end of the year. The symbolism is inescapable. Yet there are some who still believe that Turkey's mission in Cyprus is a peaceful one. Given the facts, it is hard to credit such short-sightedness.

Turkey's purpose in Cyprus has never been the declared one of protecting the Turkish-Cypriot minority. Her purpose is purely strategic and expansionist. The history of the problem proves it, and President Evren's proposed visit underlines it.

In pursuit of this purpose, Turkey has done everything possible since the invasion to keep the Cyprus problem open, to avert a just and viable settlement that would ensure the Republic's independence, sovereignty and unity.

To do this, Turkey — which exercises absolute control over the Turkish-Cypriot leadership in these matters — has resolutely excluded from any discussion such issues as the withdrawal of her occupation troops, the establishment of adequate international guarantees, and the protection of the basic freedoms of all Cypriots.

In consequence, successive rounds of talks between the two sides in the island have dealt almost exclusively with constitutional issues, becoming bogged down in details and achieving nothing of any significance. This is inevitable given Turkey's policy of EITHER no solution at all OR a solution entirely on her own terms: either way her goal is the same, acceptance by the Greek-Cypriots and the world at large of facts accomplished created and maintained by the use of force.

But neither way is justice served. And neither way is peace and the future stability of the region served.

The matter is simple. The Cyprus problem is one of invasion and continuing foreign military occupation. It will not be solved until the occupation ceases, alien mainland settlers are returned to Turkey, and a new set of international guarantees is agreed upon to safeguard a future settlement.

These crucial issues must now be tackled directly, without further delay. Turkey can no longer mask her reluctance to discuss them with Mr. Denktaş's wearisome fetishistic attachment to the U.N. Secretary-General's March 1986 document. Of course the constitutional arrangements for a future Federal Government of Cyprus are important. But they can only be addressed successfully within the context of meaningful and substantive negotiations for an overall solution.

Confronted by continuing Turkish intransigence and by an expanding Turkish armed presence in the occupied area, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus recently decided to make a new recourse to the U.N. General Assembly. It will be asking the world community to reaffirm the principles of a just solution to the problem, to support new initiatives in the search for such a solution including strengthening the mandate of the U.N. Secretary-General, and to invite the Security Council to face its responsibilities in the matter.

It is up to the members of the United Nations, and in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, to find ways of ensuring the implementation of their numerous resolutions on Cyprus calling for a settlement in accordance with the principles of the U.N. Charter.

The Cyprus Government has made a number of concrete proposals to facilitate discussion and resolution of the basic issues. These proposals still stand.

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, reiterated only last month his proposal for the complete demilitarisation of the Republic as a means of meeting Turkish-Cypriot security concerns — real or imaginary.

The Cyprus Government has also proposed the convening of a representative international conference on Cyprus, to be held under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary-General, as a suitable forum for the discussion of the international aspects of the problem.

The Turkish attitude to these proposals has so far been negative.

Left to herself Turkey will never agree to a just and viable settlement in Cyprus.

This is where the responsibility of the international community has to be brought into play.

Turkey must be left in no doubt, by those whose words carry the greatest weight, that the international community will not tolerate the perpetuation of the Cyprus problem.

It has gone on long enough. At a time when momentous steps are being taken to reduce the risk of war in Europe, it must be borne in mind that peace depends not only on the super-powers but also on averting local or regional conflicts that could get out of control. This in turn depends on the ability of the world community to act so that no individual nation is tempted to take justice into its own hands.

In the case of Cyprus the world community has not yet shown itself able to meet this challenge. A challenge that could not be put more eloquently than in the words of British historian and former High Commissioner to Nicosia, Sir David Hunt:

"...the duty of all countries now is not merely to abstain from assisting the aggressor by acquiescence but to take steps to redress the wrong... The Republic of Cyprus stands on the side of legality and justice in the world. It demands not merely sympathy, not merely the legal endorsement of its rights; it demands action to restore them... There can be no peace and stability in the world unless the rule of law becomes as dominant in international affairs as it is in the political structure, in the ordinary life, of all well-ordered countries".*

* From the 1983 Canon Newham Memorial Lecture.
The Press and Information Office, Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus is ideally positioned for its fresh trade chances

Living with new customs

After adapting well to invasion, the economy is now gearing up to the challenge of becoming part of the EEC customs union

ECONOMY

By a Special Correspondent

The economy of the southern Greek part of Cyprus showed great adaptability after the Turkish invasion of 1974, when it recovered quickly from the dislocation caused by the division of the island. It will have to make another, rather less dramatic adaptation when Cyprus joins the EEC customs union on January 1.

The removal of trade barriers between Cyprus and the 12 member countries of the European Community will present opportunities, both for the island's agricultural producers, now playing a lesser part in the economy than they did, and for its

manufacturing industries. But it will also open up Cypriot industry to competition from the more sophisticated exporters of the EEC, and that will present a challenge.

There is, however, confidence that just as it did in 1974, Greek Cyprus will now be able to adapt itself to changing market conditions, and find the market niches which will enable it to flourish. One senior Cypriot banker said: "We are not afraid of the future. Change does not bring insecurity, but gives the capacity for being creative".

A visitor to Greek Cyprus today, if not exposed to Cypriot conversation, would in fact find no evidence of the severity of the island's amputation in 1974, which removed 70 per cent of the island's productive resources from the control of the Greek Cypriot government.

The government responded by promoting labour-intensive industry and a huge expansion of the construction sector, and there was a boom in the economy in the late 1970s. By the end of the decade production in the southern part of Cyprus was 12 per cent higher than it had been in the whole island in 1973.

Since then growth has slowed down considerably, and there is a large foreign

debt. But the economy has been diversified. It is now based, not just on the age-old activity of agriculture, but on a larger industrial sector, a significant increase in tourism, a well-established shipping centre, and a concerted attempt to develop Cyprus as a regional business centre.

Performance so far this year has been mixed. There has been a slowdown in economic growth, coupled with stagnation in industrial activity, brought about by a decline of demand in Arab markets. Industrial exports were down to £102.2 million (about £125 million in 1986, compared to £125 million in 1985), and had only a marginal upswing of 6 per cent in the first half of this year.

Foreign investment code is liberalized

But at the same time there has been a substantial improvement in the balance of payments, due partly to a reduction in the price of imports, principally oil. A surplus on current account, of between £20 million and £40 million, has been announced for the first time in 20 years.

Tourism, which still makes the main contribution to the balance of payments, is estimated to be up 17 per cent on

last year's revenue figure of £257 million. The total foreign debt is projected to fall from £632.1 million to £564.9 million.

With entry into the EEC customs union now imminent, the Government has two main objectives: to replace the revenue that it will now no longer receive from import duties on EEC goods, and to strengthen the island's industry. The first will be relatively easy, though likely to be unpopular, through the introduction of a value-added tax next year.

The second will be harder because it requires the galvanizing of a traditional industrial sector largely made up of small family firms, so that they can meet much greater competition.

Some steps have already been taken. One is the liberalization of the foreign investment code so as to encourage foreign companies with a high technology bias to set up in Cyprus. The intention is that this should lead to a transfer of technology to Cypriots, either through joint ventures or through the employment by these firms of local labour, and an improvement of production, management and marketing techniques.

It should also ease the rising level of unemployment in Cyprus, currently 3.6 per cent of the working population. The island has an unusually high number of graduates — per capita it ranks third in the world, coming after the US and Canada — and many of them are now looking for jobs overseas. Better opportunities, both in industry and in the activities of a regional business centre, are intended to persuade graduates to return to Cyprus after completing their education.

The government sees diversification by Cypriot industry into a high-tech capital-intensive pattern as being imperative if the sector is to survive. It has seen Cyprus losing its market share to South-East Asia, with its cheap labour, and hopes to capitalize on a work force which is cerebral rather than cheap.



Opposition posters for February's presidential elections, putting the case for Dr Vassos Lyssarides of the Socialist Edele party and, on the right, George Vassiliou, who has the backing of the Communists

In the new elections, the key word now is change

Cypriots in the south of the island will be going to the polls on February 14 to elect a President for the next five years. Voting is compulsory, writes a Special Correspondent

There is little doubt that the outstanding national problem, the division of the island, and the years of efforts to bring about reunification under a federal structure, are the dominant factors in the minds of the voters. But hopes have been raised in the past, only to be dashed, and this time none of the candidates is offering a plan which carries conviction.

The search for a peaceful solution through the UN is a common denominator. And the main hope is pinned on Turkey's application to join the EEC, and Athens's assumed readiness to block it so long as Turkish troops remain in north Cyprus.

The outcome of the election will turn, therefore, not so much on specific issues as on the style of leadership and administration each candidate is believed to offer.

their agreement stops there.

On his side Mr Kyprianou is countering his rivals' slogan with others of his own. He is proclaiming himself the champion of "Continuity" and "Stability", stressing that people are now well off, and that change must be for the better and not "change for the sake of change". This is one of Mr Kyprianou's strongest points, because people do feel that they are better off than they were.

So far none of the candidates has indicated any intention of changing the non-aligned status of Cyprus, but it is obvious that there are

POLITICS different shades of non-alignment for each of them.

Mr Clerides is regarded as pro-western, and has come under attack both from Akel and from the Democratic Party, which says that he is ready to make too many concessions to the western "patrons" of Turkey.

Dr Lyssarides, by contrast, is a staunch supporter of non-alignment and in particular of the Afro-Asian and liberation movements, and he has been critical of both Mr Kyprianou

and Mr Clerides from this standpoint.

Broadly speaking, therefore, for Mr Kyprianou non-alignment is seen as a balancing act between east and west, for Mr Clerides it involves a tilt to the west, and for Dr Lyssarides it is broadly anti-colonialist. There is some uncertainty on how it would be seen by Mr Vassiliou, but if Akel had its way it would presumably involve a tilt to the east.

Under the constitution, Cyprus has a presidential system of government in which the president, together with the ministers appointed by him, wields real power and directs both domestic and foreign policy. He alone has the power to appoint and dismiss ministers, who are accountable to him and not to the House of Representatives (Parliament).

He is elected for a five-year term by the votes of the Greek Cypriots, counted separately. The vice-president, who, under the constitution, is supposed to be a Turkish Cypriot, is theoretically elected by the Turkish Cypriots.

So the secession of the Turkish Cypriots, who have proclaimed their own Turkish

Republic of North Cyprus, has made no difference to the way in which the president is elected. Nor has it altered the fact that, by the terms of the independence constitution, he is the head of the only legitimate government of the Republic of Cyprus.

On the face of it, Mr Clerides should, on the strength of his party's vote in the 1985 general election, manage to get into the second round, and the question is who his opponent will be. Mr Kyprianou or Mr Vassiliou. Their chances appear about even.

There are those who believe that in a choice between Mr Clerides and Mr Kyprianou the latter would be the winner because Akel would never agree to vote for Mr Clerides, whom they accuse of being an extreme rightist and anti-communist.

In a contest between Mr Clerides and Mr Vassiliou, the outcome would depend on Mr Kyprianou's Democratic Party, and whether it would cast its votes for Mr Clerides despite their aversion for him or for Mr Vassiliou despite his Akel sponsorship.



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سكيا من الامل

FOCUS

Less candy floss, please

Or why Cyprus doesn't want too many beaches like this



Why is Mr Antonios Andronikou hoping to lure bird watchers to the eastern Mediterranean to observe the behaviour of the Cyprus warbler? Or bridge players to Nicosia, the more energetic to pick fruit in the Troodos mountains or the gifted to paint in Paphos?

The answer is that Mr Andronikou, director general of tourism, is having to put the brakes on a business that he calls a cornerstone of the economy.

Not that he wants to see an end to the growing stream of visitors to his lovely island. He is simply, unashamedly, seeking a better class of tourist. The industry has become a victim of its own commercial success, which, by any standards, is considerable.

The statistics are impressive: in the first ten months of the year, the number of visitors went up 19 per cent on last year, and this year's final tally is expected to top a million for the first time, injecting £360 million (about £366 million) into the economy and employing some 20 per cent of the active labour force.

But in the face of domestic criticism, the Cyprus authorities are now clamping down on future developments.

Mr Andronikou is far from being critical of his present customers — he says the kindest things about the British holidaymaker. It is simply that there is a danger of unfettered growth destroying the very things that make

TOURISM

Cyprus attractive to discerning visitors. Its charm lies largely in its unspoiled character. And that's where the bird watchers come in.

"We want to enhance what we have to offer," says Mr Andronikou. "We want to improve facilities which will enable visitors to enjoy more active holidays. We have a long season of nine months, and we wish to extend it by appealing to middle and upper income groups and offering them not only very high standards of service but a wide variety of interests, which will lead to a higher income."

"Tourist developments must harmonize with the environment. We have to aim

for quality, not quantity. We don't want our values and quality of life destroyed for the sake of the tourist industry."

There has been alarm at the unchecked Costa del Sol style of beach-to-beach hotel sprawl at the major resorts of Limassol and Larnaca, and concern that candy-floss development could swamp Paphos and even the idyllic western shore around the Chrysochou Bay.

A team of British consultants who recently carried out a study under the aegis of the UN Development Programme were concerned at what has already happened and called for "very strong restrictive measures." The government has already acted by introducing town planning legislation ensuring that new holiday developments must be approved by the tourist authority itself.

High-quality hotel building is encouraged and B-category building discouraged. The tourist authority wants only four and five-star hotels and hotel apartments, and top-quality self-catering tourist villages and villas.

One critic is veteran travel editor, René Lecler, who now lives in Paphos. "Mass tourism will rob the country of the schools it needs, the roads and the hospitals, because the mass tourist will always take precedence," he writes in *Cyprus Life*. "In my way of thinking the biggest mistake Cyprus could make would be to turn itself into a wall-to-wall Elit."

The government's response to that is that it has already adopted policies to stem the

headlong rush of young people from the hill villages to join the free-for-all on the Aphrodite coast.

There is encouragement for the improvement of traditional houses in rural areas and an increase in spending on roads and schools, in the hope that not only will rural communities stay together but that tourism will spread — in a rather more genteel fashion — to the mountain and valleys.

Tourist chiefs are still insistent that the Cyprus population of some 600,000 is never overwhelmed by visitors. In the peak month of August, 25,000 was the highest number in the country at any one time. About one in three were British.

Significantly, in view of the intention to raise standards, half the visitors come on independent booking and on average spend £300, excluding travel costs.

An intensive marketing campaign has opened up to sell Cyprus as a winter destination, offering the possibility of swimming in clear sea water, the temperature of which never drops below 16 deg. C — within an hour or so of skiing in the mountains.

And, of course, to enjoy one of those speciality holidays like birdwatching.

Apart from birdwatching, there is the chance to dig up another piece of the island's 9,000 years of history — "scratch the soil anywhere in Cyprus and you will find traces of the island's civilizations" — or even involve yourself in classes in Byzantine music.

Alan Jenkins

Taking another glass of sherry

Cyprus wine sales to the UK are at long last, it seems, out of the doldrums. An increase of 0.3 million litres in total wine imports to the UK, up from 6 million litres in 1985 to 6.3 million litres in 1986, may not sound much, but it is the first encouraging sign in the past three years that the Cypriots have had.

The UK is also Cyprus's biggest export market, which while accounting for about 27 per cent in volume terms of her total wine exports, also represents almost 50 per cent in value due to the high proportion of Cyprus sherry sold here.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of these latest trading figures is the healthy increase in Cyprus sherry sales to the UK. The total sherry market in this country has been declining since the late 1970s when the switch to lighter, paler drinks and cocktails began. The introduction of pale cream sherries stemmed but did not stop this trend.

WINE

It is therefore impressive to note that UK Cyprus sherry sales are up from 2,630,560 litres in 1985 to 3,903,344 in 1986, due in part, no doubt, to the price advantage that these wines have over their competitors.

The removal of preferential Commonwealth trade agreements were responsible for the initial decline, and more recently the entry into the EEC and its important trading advantages for competitive countries such as Spain, plus the Turkish invasion in 1974, have combined to dramatically depress sales of Cyprus wines.

The peak year for exports of Cyprus wines to the UK was 1974, when a hefty 33.5m litres were shipped. Since then sales have dropped steadily until the 1985 low of six million litres.

Cyprus is, however, fighting back. The launch of the Cyprus Wine Centre at 211-213 Regent Street, London

Jane MacQuitty

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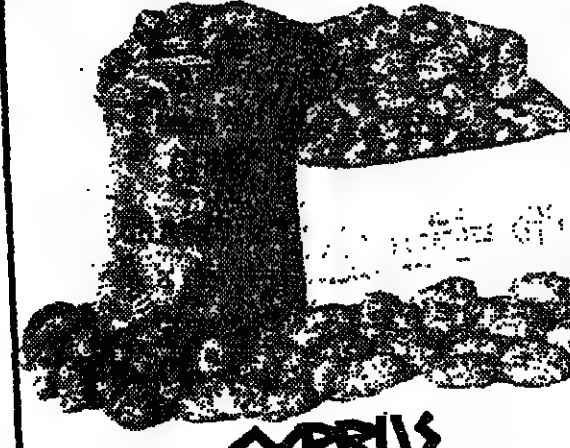
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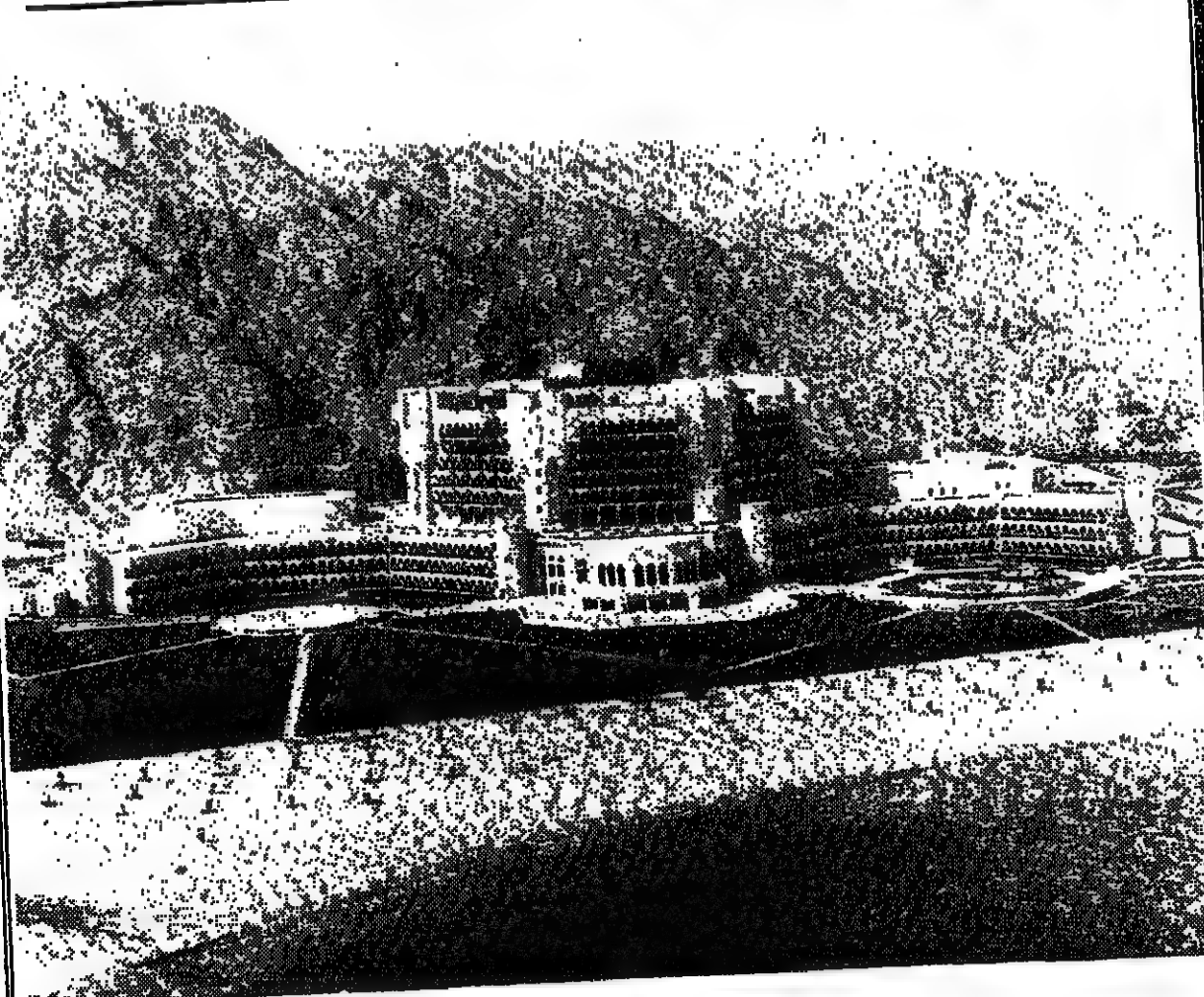


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SCHOOLS RUGBY

Epsom show a solid base

By Michael Stevenson

It would be interesting to know how many schools still possess both unbeaten first and second teams. Epsom can claim this distinction, the nearest their first team has come to defeat being their 12-12 draw with Harrow early in the season.

Their friends and neighbours, St John's Leatherhead, succumbed 8-7 but Epsom's most recent victory (0-16) at St Paul's was far more decisive. RFU records confirm that both schools have been submitting the RFU since 1871 and this year they renewed fixtures, which had lapsed in 1894.

Epsom scored three tries in the Barnes mud, the best of the three being the culmination of excellent handling and sustained pressure. Jason Hood, the England 18 group stand-off half, was the scorer. Epsom will do well to maintain their unbeaten record until the term's end, as they still have to meet King's, Canterbury, who have moved to Tonbridge and the undefeated Wellington (Berks).

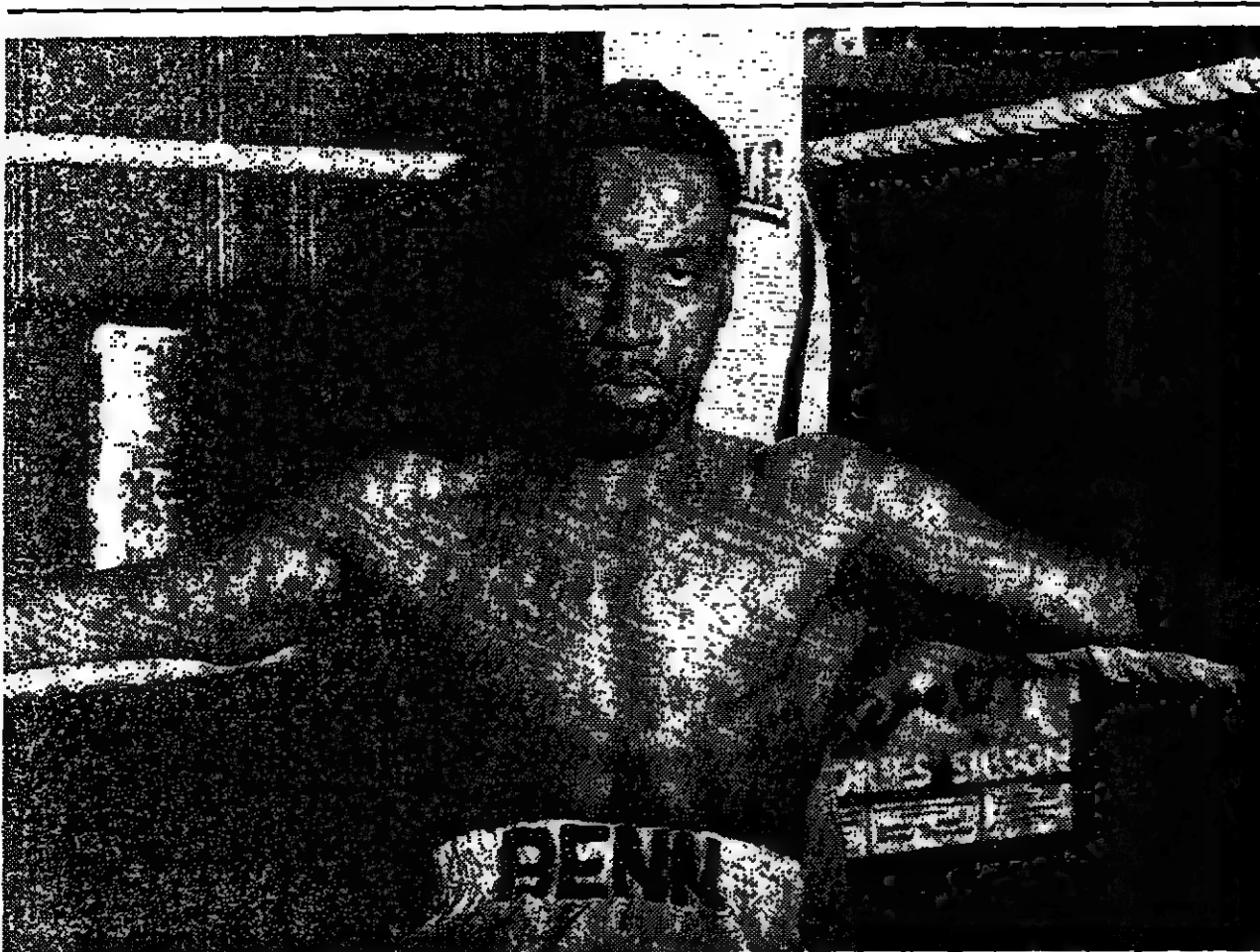
Bloxham are having a great season, losing narrowly to Warwick (9-6), winning every other match and earning a points tally of 282, against 43 from 13 wins in 14 matches. Their most recent victories have been against Dean Close (12-0), King Edward VI, Stratford (59-0) and Bromsgrove (113-11). The front five have played excellently.

Bromsgrove have lost twice to Bloxham (9-20) and the Bloxham match, in which both sides scored two tries, they ran things fine, however, against Ellesmere to win 11-8, through a penalty awarded for a relatively mild dissent. James Reed-Daunter has been playing magnificently at full back.

Two early draws, against Stoneyhurst (0-0) and St Asaph's (3-3), were followed by defeat for Rossington (0-14) by Rydal, but an enjoyable half-term tour of the Isle of Man, in which they lost (3-11) to Portlough College in the final of the King William's Festival, brought welcome improvement. Perhaps Rossington's date with their 25-3 victory against RCS Lancaster.

Durham and RGS Newcastle had only lost to Ampleforth, which added flavour to their recent hard match, won by Durham (13-9). Durham, who conceded only one try, were out-scrambled but were much stronger outside the scrum. King's, Taunton, have lost twice, 6-7 to Sherborne and 8-12 to Cheltenham, scoring 117 and conceding 44 points.

Jonathan Rendall dares to look into the eyes of the whirlwind



The genuine article staring you in the face: Benn dreams of cornering the world (Photograph: Andrew Palmer)

No ifs or buts about Benn

Punchers have people believing anything. Followers of Nigel Benn already believe him to be the next middleweight champion of the world. After Benn knocked out Lou Chantler, ranked No. 7 in Britain, in 16 seconds of the first round on Tuesday, even the experts are tacitly acknowledging the arrival in the midst of an infrequent visitor: the genuine prospect.

Chantler, a normally durable fighter from Liverpool, boxes as a southpaw and was no doubt expecting the traditional response to such orthodox in the form of a left hook. Instead, as he prodded out the right jab in the manner of a postman nonchalantly reaching for the doorbell, he was met by a right hook which delivered him to unconsciousness with the message that more savage guard dogs do not attack only through the front door.

It will not worry Benn that one Jackie Cain achieved a similar feat four and a half seconds quicker in 1922. Benn says simply: "I threw the book over the job. I am not interested in records." The hook gave him his eighth first-round victory and eleventh

consecutive stoppage in as many bouts.

Benn is, in stature and style if not yet in achievement, a middleweight Mike Tyson. His short-range, snaking punches, thrown from the hip, constitute what is termed the "American" approach, anathema to the purists but a tonic to realists chastened by the demise of McGuigan, Haney, and Marsh and Andrieu. The Americans, it should be remembered, still tend to view British boxing as an exercise in jabbing, moving and falling over.

When, in his ninth bout, Benn felled Ronnie Yeo, of the United States, with a right cross thrown straight across the chest, even the purists took note. As A. J. Lebling once observed, Rocky Marciano never learnt that punch until he beat Jersey Joe Walcott for the title. Benn can knock you out with the left hook, too, a portfolio which convinces his manager, Burt McCarthy, that "Nigel will need three guys just to count his money — or weigh it."

Benn, aged 23, of West Ham, first attracted attention in May by stopping Winston

Burnett, a journeyman lightweight, who had been floored only once in 84 bouts. Benn destroyed Burnett, repeated the dose five months later, and in doing so contributed to that fascinating and irrelevant art: the form-line. For Frank Tate, the International Boxing Federation world champion, had struggled through eight rounds with Burnett in March.

Three weeks ago the Tate camp requested Benn's services as a sparring partner in Houston, but he is unlikely to make the trip. "I've got to clean up Britain first," he says. Benn served in the Royal Fusiliers in West Germany and Northern Ireland and it was there that he learned how to take a punch, courtesy of a sergeant-major who was also inclined to play percussion on his lips with a drill stick. He "loved the Army".

In the amateurs, where he won an ABA title in 1986, Benn bore the shaven-skulled look, but once baldness went out of fashion with Marvin Hagler's defeat by Sugar Ray Leonard he decided to grow his hair. Now he sports a mohican and his intimidating

appearance is enhanced by the admission that "hated and spite" fuel his boxing ambitions. "I get worried when a guy goes down," he says. "In case he doesn't get up for me to hit him again."

Now that television has caught on to Benn's potential, the problem for McCarthy is who to match him with. "I don't want to fight any more Mexican roadweavers," Benn says, confirming his intention to do the cleaning up himself. "And I don't want to be rushed either. I'll go for the British title in about 10 months."

The British champion, Tony Sibson, has employed Benn as a sparring partner and says he regards him as his own days as a prospect. For the moment, Benn fills in for Sibson, who has a damaged shoulder, at the Albert Hall on December 2, just nine days after the Chantler bout.

His American opponent, Kenney Snow, is a useful boxer but even that patron of the round-by-round fight, Gary Davies, might be inclined to lay off any bets taken on Benn setting Snow in the cell during these first three perilous minutes.

ICE SKATING

Conway given every chance to learn her art

By John Hennessy

The British figure skating team for the three international championships after Christmas — in Prague (European), Calgary (Olympic) and Budapest (world) — faithfully follows the results of the national championships at Lee Valley this week.

Those selected to compete in all three are Joanne Conway, Paul Robinson and, in the pairs, Cheryl Burke with Andrew Naylor and Lisa Cusley with her brother, Neil. Britain is entitled to a second entry in the women's solo events in Calgary and Budapest, and that place goes to Miss Conway this week.

If Miss Conway, the apparent jewel in the British crown at present, was something of a disappointment in Wednesday night's free skating, it would be cruel to be unduly censorious. For all her maturity of appearance and bearing, she is still only 16, and there are oceans of time before she reaches her probable peak in time for the 1992 Olympic Games. The same remarks apply equally to Miss Fulton.

In any case, the conditions that led to Miss Conway's lack of sparkle on Wednesday should not be repeated at the major event. She felt unfit, "heavy in the legs," at Lee Valley a legacy

from having to depart from her usual training routine.

Ordinarily, her teacher, Chrisa Fassi, explained, she would run through her entire programme every day, but that had not been possible for nearly a week at Lee Valley. She had also, of course, to cope with an eight-hour time difference between Colorado, where she is now based, and London.

Although Miss Fulton's Canadian teacher, Peter Dunfield, took a different view about concentrated training immediately before an event, she is a powerful support for Mrs Fassi's theory. Torville and Dean virtually pioneered daily runs-through of ice dance programmes, not only at home but at every official practice at international events.

Miss Conway showed in the recent Skate Canada competition that the quality to reach the very top is there, and she reinforced that claim brilliantly in the short programme at Lee Valley.

Let us not be in too great a hurry. This is a season for laying important foundations. Next year we might hope to see her crowned as European champion — here in Britain as the international calendar would have it.

TABLE TENNIS

A record at Thornaby

English table tennis, which this season has shown signs of a long-awaited upturn, received another big boost yesterday with the announcement of the largest amount of prize-money in the sport's history, for the match between Europe and Asia, at Thornaby Pavilion, Cleveland, on January 16 and 17 (a Special Correspondent writes).

The prize fund, said to be around £28,000, is part of a far bigger sum, probably about £100,000, being put up by the Leeds Permanent Building Society.

Nine of the top men in the world and six of the leading women will take part, along with wild card entries from six men and four women from Britain.

It will be the most important table tennis event in the world before next year's Olympic Games, and certainly the biggest and best in this country since the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham.

All the competitions in the match are expected to stay on for the English Open in Brighton, from January 20 to 23.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
Fourth division
Hull v Crewe
Stockport v Colchester
Tranmere v Newport

Barclays League
Fourth division
Hull v Crewe
Stockport v Colchester
Tranmere v Newport

Barclays League
Fourth division
Hull v Crewe
Stockport v Colchester
Tranmere v Newport

RUGBY LEAGUE

Barclays League
Fourth division
Hull v Crewe
Stockport v Colchester
Tranmere v Newport

Barclays League
Fourth division
Hull v Crewe
Stockport v Colchester
Tranmere v Newport

Barclays League
Fourth division
Hull v Crewe
Stockport v Colchester
Tranmere v Newport

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Alley's add to season's success

By George Chesterton

In beating Brentwood 4-2, Alley's achieved their ninth success of the season; their other three games were drawn. They have conceded only 12 goals and scored 36. In this match Pass scored 56. In this match Pass scored 56. In this match Pass scored 56.

Bradfield beat Lancing 3-1. Bradford had the possession. Wood scored after half an hour and again with a long shot just after the interval. Aferino came back with a good individual goal for Lancing, but 10 minutes from the end Lander fired home a long shot.

Eton, visiting Aldenham, won by the same margin. They were one up at half-time and trusted put them two ahead early in the second half. Aldenham pulled one back but Eton dashed any hopes the home team had of squaring the match with Eton's third.

Charterhouse and Shrewsbury battled to a gripping 1-1 draw. Shrewsbury scored first early in the second half when Winn headed home a corner and Gorman equalized for Charterhouse in a similar manner 10 minutes from time.

Northern Independent Schools proved too strong for their Southern counterparts at Wolverhampton, winning 6-0, a fact which has been reflected in the team selected to play at Rochampton on December 17. INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FA to play Wolverhampton at Rochampton on December 17. INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FA to play Wolverhampton at Rochampton on December 17.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 27 1987

House of Lords

No duty of care to benefit claimant

Jones v Department of Employment

Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Goff and Mr Justice Causfield

[Judgment November 26]

The correctness of a decision made by a social security adjudication officer could be challenged by statutory process of appeal, or by way of judicial review, but the adjudication officer owed no duty of care at common law to a claimant, and no cause of action in negligence, accordingly lay against him.

The principle that the court in hearing an appeal would not allow points not raised below to be argued before it did not apply to an application to strike out a pleading as disclosing no cause of action.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the Department of Employment from Mr Recorder Causfield at Oxford County Court who had refused to strike out, as disclosing no cause of action, a claim for negligence made against them by Martin Jones.

Mr John Laws for the department; Mr Alexander Hill-Smith for Mr Jones.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the plaintiff had ceased work in June 1984 and on July 17 he made a claim for unemployment benefit. The claim was disallowed by the adjudication officer and his appeal to the Social Security Appeal Tribunal was allowed, his unemployment benefit being backdated to July 17.

In March 1986 he began proceedings in Oxford County Court, claiming damages for loss allegedly caused by the negligence of the department, and of their employee, the adjudication officer.

The plaintiff alleged that the adjudication officer had been negligent in reaching his decision to disallow the claim, and that the department was itself

negligent in failing to review that decision once further evidence had been put to it by his solicitor.

In April 1986 the department applied to strike out the proceedings as disclosing no cause of action, under Order 13, rule 1 of the County Court Rules 1981.

The application was refused and the department appealed. *Inter alia*, on the following grounds: (i) that section 117 of the Social Security Act 1975 excluded any right of action at common law for alleged negligence in making a decision by an adjudication officer; (ii) that an adjudication officer owed no duty at common law to a person whose claim he was considering the breach of which would found an action for negligence; (iii) the adjudication officer's duties were of a judicial nature and the department was accordingly protected from suit by section 2(5) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947.

Before hearing the substantive appeal, the court considered and ruled on an objection taken by Mr Hill-Smith on behalf of Mr Jones that neither of the first two points had been raised in the court below. He based the objection on the long-standing practice derived from *Smith v Baker & Sons* ([1891] AC 325).

His Lordship referred to passages from the speeches of Lord Halsbury, Lord Chancellor, at p333 and of Lord Herschell, at p338. He also referred to *dicta* of Sir Raymond Evershed, Master of the Rolls, in *United Dominions Trust Ltd v Birkbeck* ([1954] 1 WLR 1345, 1350-1351) and to *dicta* of Lord Justice Wilmer and Lord Justice Diplock in *Cassidy v Brown* ([1967] 1 WLR 1087, 1091-1092, 1098-1099).

Mr Laws' main argument was that the principle in *Smith v Baker & Sons* did not apply to an application to strike out a pleading as disclosing no cause of action. He pointed out that

one reason given for the existence of the rule was that if the points had been put below the opposing party might well have sought leave to call additional evidence to meet them.

Where, in his Lordship's view, was in issue whether a pleading disclosed a reasonable cause of action, a question of fact or evidence arose. Accordingly there was no reason why an argument not raised below might not be advanced on appeal, provided that the opposing party had had sufficient time to consider the point.

Turning to the substantive appeal, his Lordship considered the relevant legislation in the Social Security Act 1975 as amended. He set out the provisions relating to entitlement to unemployment benefit and to the submitting of claims to the adjudication officer for his determination.

Section 100(1) provided that an aggrieved claimant might appeal to the Social Security Appeal Tribunal and by section 101(1) he might appeal further to the commissioner. Section 117 provided that subject to appeals from the commissioner on points of law the decision of any claim or question in accordance with the Act should be final.

With regard to the question whether the adjudication officer was discharging duties of a judicial nature, Mr Hill-Smith submitted that he was not; that such duties involved a contest between two parties resolved by some sort of judicial process, whereas the adjudication officer was making a decision on a claim made by one party.

For support of that argument he referred to *dicta* of Lord Justice Diplock in *R v Deputy Industrial Injuries Commissioner, Ex parte Moore* ([1965] 1 QB 456, 486).

His Lordship agreed with the submission and concluded that the adjudication officer was not discharging responsibilities of a judicial nature.

Mr Laws submitted that if there were a right of action in negligence against the department either in respect of its own or the adjudication officer's negligence, the plaintiff would inevitably be challenging the correctness of the decision. That, he said, was contrary to section 117 of the Act.

In his Lordship's judgment, Mr Laws was right. If the present action were to proceed it would necessarily involve a challenge to the correctness of the adjudication officer's decision, and that would be a challenge to its finality, by a route other than that provided by the statutory provisions. In his Lordship's view, that was prohibited by section 117 of the 1975 Act. He would accordingly allow the appeal on that ground.

Mr Laws' second ground was that the duty of the adjudication officer lay in the field of public law, and was only enforceable

by way of the statutory appeal procedure or by way of the public-law remedy of judicial review. There was, he submitted, no remedy available to the plaintiff in private law as opposed to public law.

Mr Hill-Smith submitted that the relationship between the adjudication officer and the claimant to unemployment benefit was sufficiently close to give rise to a duty of care, within the meaning of the *dicta* in recent decisions which had extended the boundaries of the law of negligence.

His Lordship then referred to *dicta* of Lord Bridge in *Curran v Northern Ireland Co-ownership Housing Association* ([1987] 2 WLR 1043, 1047); to *dicta* of Lord Wilberforce in *Ann v Merton London Borough Council* ([1978] AC 728, 751); to the comments of Lord Keith in *Yuen Kiu Yau v Attorney General of Hong Kong* ([1987] 776, 783) and to *dicta* of Lord Goff in *Governors of the Peabody Donation Fund v Sir Lindsay Parkinson Ltd* ([1985] AC 210, 240).

His Lordship said that the question was thus whether taking all the circumstances into account it was just and reasonable that the adjudication officer should be under a duty of care at common law to the claimant to benefit.

Having regard to the non-judicial nature of his responsibilities and in particular to the statutory framework which provided for a right of appeal, it was his Lordship's view that the adjudication officer was not under any common-law duty of care. He agreed with Mr Laws that that officer's decision was not susceptible of challenge at common law unless it were to be shown that he had been guilty of misfeasance. He would therefore allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Slade and Mr Justice Causfield delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: DHSS Solicitor; Linnells, Oxford.

Limit to slip rule

G A Verdegem & Zanes Export BV v Pollen

The slip rule, Order 20, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, although not limited to clerical errors in drawing up an order of the court and having no effect to correct accidental slips and omissions of counsel, had never been extended to a situation where a defendant failed to inform his solicitor what his defence was.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lloyd and Sir Rouselle Cumming-Bruce) so held on November 18 in dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Mr Nigel Vernon Pollen, against the decision of Mr Justice Potts on October 22, 1986, when in a hearing in chambers he ordered that the defendant's appeals

Dixon v Allgood
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman, Lord Templeman and Lord Ackner [Speeches November 26]

Where a tenant reconstructed two semi-detached cottages, one being rated first on May 9, 1966 at £42, and the second on February 6, 1967 at £34, and subsequently built five garages rated in 1971 at £24, the question whether his tenancy was one at a low rent was to be determined by reference to the aggregate rateable value of the two cottages excluding the garages and he was not entitled to purchase the freehold under the provisions of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967.

House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the tenant, Mr James Dixon, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Slade and Mr Justice Waite) who on November 3, 1986 allowed an appeal by the landlord, Mr Michael Gadd, from a decision of Judge H. G. Hall at Hexham County Court.

Section 4(1) of the 1967 Act provides: "... a tenancy of any property is a tenancy at a low rent at any time when rent is not payable under the tenancy in respect of the property at a yearly rate equal to or more than two-thirds of the rateable value of the property on the appropriate day ..."

Mr Michael Gadd for Mr Dixon; Mr Nigel Hague, QC and Mr John Fryer Spedding for Mr Allgood.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the 1967 Act enabled a tenant occupying a dwelling-house as his residence under a long lease at a low rent to acquire the freehold of the house and premises.

By a lease of 1964 for 51 years Mr Dixon's rent for the two cottages and six acres of land had been £52 a year, subsequently reduced after compulsory purchase of a small part of the land to £51.44.

Mr Dixon had reconstructed

one of the cottages, Riverside Cottage, for which a rateable value had first been shown in the valuation list on May 9, 1966 at £42. He had occupied it as his residence.

Then he had reconstructed the second cottage, Riverside Cottage East, and sublet it. It had first appeared in the valuation list on February 6, 1967, at £34.

Subsequently, he had constructed the garage building on the forecourt of the cottages. That had first been rated on December 22, 1971 at £24.

In 1977, Mr Dixon had obtained vacant possession of Riverside Cottage East and, as the judge had held, converted the cottages into one dwelling-house, which he called Riverside Cottages and occupied as his residence.

By his notice under the 1967 Act claiming to purchase the freehold, Mr Dixon had claimed that the rateable value of the cottages and premises at the relevant date had been £100.

It was conceded that "the premises" included about half an acre comprising the driveway, garden and forecourt with the garages.

The judge had held that Mr Dixon was entitled to do so because the rent was more than the aggregate rateable value of the cottages excluding the garages, namely £76.

If the "appropriate day" fell before December 22, 1971, Mr Dixon was not entitled to purchase the cottages and premises under the Act.

Since the cottages had not been rated on March 23, 1965 (the date on which the Bill for the Rent Act 1965 had been introduced), the "appropriate day" was by virtue of section 4(1)(a) of the 1967 Act to be determined under section 25(3) of the Rent Act 1977 in relation to "the house in question", that is, the cottages excluding the garages.

The dwelling-house consisted of two hereditaments, the former Riverside Cottage and Riverside Cottage East, both of which had appeared in the valuation list on February 6, 1967.

The appropriate day for the purposes of determining the rateable value of the dwelling-house now occupied by Mr Dixon was not later than February 6, 1967, and the aggregate rateable value of the two hereditaments that now constituted that dwelling-house was £76.

Mr Dixon's rent was more than two-thirds of £76, and it followed that he was not entitled to purchase the freehold.

Lord Justice Slade had

pointed out that there was a clear and unequivocal difference between the provisions of the 1967 Act entitling a tenant to purchase "the house and premises" and those of section 4(1)(a) requiring the appropriate day to be determined in relation to a dwelling-house "consisting of the house in question".

Unless the conditions specified in section 25(4) of the 1967 Act regarding alteration of the valuation list after the appropriate day were satisfied, which in the present case they were not, events taking place after the appropriate day had to be disregarded, and the appropriate day itself was by section 4(1) judged by reference to the first day on which the house as a single hereditament or as two or more hereditaments had first appeared in the valuation list.

If the garages had been built before February 6, 1967, section 4(2), relied on by Mr Gadd, would have required them to be taken into account, although they were separately rated, because of the requirement that the question should be determined by reference to the rateable value of the house and premises as a whole.

Section 4(2) also required that Riverside Cottage East should be taken into account notwithstanding that it had been sublet and had not formed part of "the house" on February 6, 1967.

In section 4(2) did not, however, in his Lordship's opinion, alter or cast any doubt on the direction in section 4(1)(a) that for the purpose of determining the appropriate day the only question was when the house

had first been rated either as a single hereditament or as two or more hereditaments.

Riverside Cottages, the house, had been rated as two hereditaments on February 6, 1967, which was, therefore, the appropriate day.

Mr Gadd had also submitted that "the house" had not come into existence until 1977 when the two cottages had been converted into one house, that 1977 was, therefore, the appropriate day and that the house had then consisted of three hereditaments comprised of the two cottages and the garages.

Section 4(1)(a), however, read in conjunction with section 25(1) of the 1977 Act, required the appropriate day to be the day when "the house", consisting of two cottages and no more, had first been rated, and that day was February 6, 1967.

A tenant of two semi-detached houses, each rated at £50 on March 25, 1965, could not by inserting communicating doors between the two houses and converting them into one house, rated in 1987 at £130, alter the appropriate day or increase the rateable value for the purposes of the 1967 Act.

In the present case, "the house" created by Mr Dixon in 1977 consisted of two hereditaments rated for the first time by February 6, 1967.

Lord Keith, Lord Brandon, Lord Brightman and Lord Ackner agreed.

Solicitors: Park Nelson for Section 4(1)(a) & Rouselle Cumming-Bruce; Wilkinson Maughan, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mixing blood samples destroys admissibility of analysis evidence

Dear v DPP

In order for the analysis of the specimen of blood, provided by a defendant charged with driving with excess alcohol, contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted by section 25(3) of and Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981, to be admissible in evidence, the prosecution had to establish that the process of obtaining that specimen, as provided in section 10(1) of the 1972 Act, as substituted, was strictly complied with.

Accordingly, where the portion of the specimen of blood supplied to the defendant had been mixed with a portion, albeit minimal, of blood taken from the defendant a few minutes earlier, which earlier portion had been insufficient to constitute a specimen, the portion of blood retained by the

police and its analysis was inadmissible.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann) so held on November 20 allowing the appeal of the defendant, Jacqueline Mary Dear, against her conviction by Epping Justices on May 21, 1987, of driving with excess alcohol contrary to section 6(1), fine of £130 plus £60 costs, 12-month disqualification and licence endorsement.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the plain fact was that what was handed to the defendant was not one half or one portion

TENNIS

Solving a riddle after 31 years

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

One of the off-court puzzles of Wimbledon's recent history could soon be resolved. For most of the past 31 years Angela Buxton, who shared the 1956 doubles title with Althea Gibson, has wondered why she was not a member of the All England Club. The AEC is not sure that she wants to be. Yesterday it became clear that each party would prefer an initiative from the other.

Since the Second World War only three British players have shared the women's doubles title. Such a distinction tends to lead to AEC membership in the parlance applied to Army leave, as a privilege rather than an entitlement. Private clubs can be as arbitrary as they please when considering potential new members.

This case has been confused by the fact that Miss Buxton is Jewish, leading to rumours that this might have had something to do with her omission from the members' list. But "Buzzer" Hadjilapham, who was appointed AEC chairman in 1983 and swiftly sorted out a controversy concerning Bunny Austin's membership - pointed out yesterday that the club already had Jewish members.

The answer, he said, was much simpler. In 1965 the AEC checked the addresses of candidates for membership so that the list could be reprinted. Miss Buxton's response contained the handwritten words "Application not now required". Miss Buxton cannot recall writing that, but confirms the sentiment.

"Other people seem to be more bothered than I am," she said yesterday. "But why wasn't I invited, all these years? I have applied several times. The last one was a couple of years ago. I was told to be patient. If I wanted to be, I probably have enough friends in the tennis world to do it. I could hassle 'Buzzer' Hadjilapham. But he has enough on his plate, without me."

Miss Buxton, a professional since 1968, is in the process of selling her Hampstead tennis school and is "tending to get into golf". AEC membership no longer means as much as it would have done 31 years ago. "But it would probably put the record straight," she said, "if they offered me membership and I accepted it. Should the next member be Wimbledon's, or Miss Buxton's?"

GOLF

Price the nomad settles in

Melbourne (Reuters) - Terry Price, a nomadic Australian who describes himself as "from no fixed abode", turned his obscurity by seizing the first-round lead with a five-under-par 67 in the Australian Open tournament yesterday. In his week were the champion, Rodger Davis of Australia, Sam Torrance of Scotland, and Greg Norman, who had a 70, and Larry Nelson, who returned a 75.

Price caught Royal Melbourne in a forgiving mood and shot an outward half of 30 in a nervous round that included five birdies. Lyle's round included seven birdies on a course unfamiliar to him.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES: (Australian unless stated) 67: T Price (A), R Davis (A), S Torrance (S), G Norman (A), L Nelson (A), 68: G Lyle (S), B King (S), W Smith (A), D Jones (A), 69: M Collinson (A), W Wood (A), M Hammond (A), 70: A Bland (A), G Brand (A), G D Mearns (A), J Clifford (A), F Noblet (A), 71: B Firth (A), S Elliott (A), 72: D Llewellyn (A), 73: M Bembidge.

► **KAIMONCHO (AP)** - David Lyle, of the United States, and Sam Torrance, of Scotland, each scored a five-under-par 67 yesterday and shared the lead after the opening round in the Casio World Open tournament. On the 410-yard, four-hole Torrance drove his tee shot into the trees and needed three strokes to reach the green, where he needed two putts. He recovered with three birdies on the front nine and four more on the back nine.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES: 67: D Lyle (U.S.), S Torrance (S), M Ozul (Japan), 68: G Lyle (S), B King (S), W Smith (A), D Jones (A), 69: M Collinson (A), W Wood (A), M Hammond (A), 70: A Bland (A), G Brand (A), G D Mearns (A), J Clifford (A), F Noblet (A), 71: B Firth (A), S Elliott (A), 72: D Llewellyn (A), 73: M Bembidge.

Tour boost

Whyre and Mackay, the distillers, are ending their sponsorship of the PGA Championship after backing this leg of the European Tour for the past four years. But the Tour is boosted by a new tournament, the Majorca Open, to be staged at Palma from March 10 to 13. Prize money of £200,000 will be on offer.

Higher stakes

Prize money for the 1988 Bowning Scottish Ladies Open Golf Championship has been increased by £10,000 to £40,000. The championship, at Cawdor Club, Glasgow, provides the Scottish public with their only home opportunity to watch the strong Scottish contingent on the women's PGA circuit.

Sports centres trading a delicate line between profit and disaster
Privatization is the leisure dilemma

The Bushfield Sports Centre in Peterborough, operated by the City Council, serves approximately 149,000 people over an area of 15 miles. It is a typical local authority-run facility. Its staff work long hours and are committed to providing the best sports service possible. But, for all the hard work, it is estimated that the centre will show a loss of £160,900 this year.

This deficit is not unusual for a sports and leisure amenity managed by a local authority, but members from the private sector believe that the overseeing of sports and leisure centres can be made economically more viable and efficient.

Crossland Leisure (Holdings) Ltd, a Camberley-based company that privately manages sports centres, reckons that by adopting a similar programme and the same pricing structure as the example of Peterborough, it could reduce the deficit by 30 per cent, and could show a healthy profit if it utilized a wholly commercial approach.

This is why the Government requested a consultancy period, currently in progress, to discover how privatization could improve the running of sports and leisure facilities and how it would effect sport in this country.

On December 11 the Department of the Environment will decide how to implement its consultation paper, entitled "Competition in the Management of Local Authority Sport and Leisure Facilities", which was presented to the public in September.

The Government is convinced that privatization would lead to considerably lower costs and greater efficiency through the introduction of competition within the sporting governing bodies. In particular the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), are deeply concerned that the rush to turn facilities into profitable businesses will deprive many of the opportunity to participate in sport.

The Times has chosen one particular sports centre and employed the services of members of the private sector to examine how, in an individual case, privatization would affect the management, general running and efficiency of this important service to the public. It is important to point out that this example is only appropriate to the class-structure of Peterborough and that different approaches would be needed for different areas of the country.

The Bushfield Sports Centre is a dual-use facility and forms



Sporting chance: Janice Townson with her staff at Peterborough and below the private sector marketeers, David Cross (left) and John Staniland

PUBLIC v PRIVATE

Local authority estimates for Bushfield 1987/88	Crossland's estimates for Bushfield 1987/88
Expenditure	Expenditure
Employees	£121,200
Premises	£45,700
Transport and Plant	£200
Supplies and Services	£18,800
Debt Charges	£25,300
Management and Administration Expenses	£63,900
Total Expenditure	£273,700
Income	Income
Contributions from Cambridgeshire CC	£37,900
Sales from sports shop	£2,400
Fees and Hireings	£58,700
Concessions, bar	£3,800
Total Income	£102,800
Net Deficit: £160,900	Net Deficit: £170,900

part of the adjacent Bushfield Community School. It provides a comprehensive range of facilities used by the pupils during school times and by the general public each lunchtime, evenings, weekends, and all day during school holidays.

The centre is run by Peterborough City Council and its manager, Janice Townson, has been in charge for the past eight months. Her background in marketing has made her progressive in her ideas for running Bushfield and she has already introduced, in small doses, schemes such as sponsors and centre-promoted activities to improve the general income.

David Cross and John Staniland are the principal directors of Crossland Leisure (Holdings) Ltd. Both have had considerable experience in the

management of both private and local authority leisure facilities and they have commissioned and subsequently managed ten new centres.

Using a similar broad programme and exactly the same pricing structure as is currently adopted at Bushfield, Crossland Leisure predicts it could run the Bushfield Sports Centre for £105,000, a saving on the authority's projection of over £55,000 per annum (30 per cent), as shown in the adjacent box of accounts. If the Council were to continue to meet the debt charges and ground maintenance costs, Crossland would operate at a total subsidy of £60,000, which would include a budget for a £20,000 profit. If this profit increased, it would then offer a profit sharing arrangement on a sliding scale.



"We would achieve this improved operational performance through a combination of factors," Cross and Staniland reported. "The company would inject capital to floodlight the outside training areas and introduce five-a-side leagues which would also release main indoor hall space for other activities at peak times."

"We would also invest in equipment such as inflatable castles, roller skates and sunbeds, which can have a very rapid payback," they added. But the centre of concentration appears to be focussed on a fundamental change to the marketing and programming policy. "This would yield the required improvement in turnover," they said. "Opening hours [presently from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.] would be

extended to cater for the 'early riser' market and the late night badminton player. Some £7,000 would be spent on direct marketing (in-house leaflets, posters, press and radio advertising) in accordance with a planned annual marketing strategy. The number of centre-promoted activities would be extended and promoted as the return from such activities is critical to the overall financial viability."

What particularly concerns many involved in sport is the possibility that a large proportion of the public will be priced out. Crossland Leisure agree to a certain extent. "We could operate Bushfield purely on a commercial basis, pay the authority a rental and accommodate the school's usage," they added. "But it would be achieved by running

the facility as a private members club with full commercial fees being charged."

They vigorously defend their own private methods. "There is a wide misconception that privatization means that corners are cut, but we always look to improve the income, not necessarily reduce the expenditure," Staniland said. "We spend more but get a bigger return."

The Government's consultation paper is therefore guardedly welcomed. "It is good that the Government is pressing local authorities to get their houses in order," Cross said. "There may be other political motives involved, but it has stirred things up and should make people roll their sleeves up in search of better efficiency."

Ian Stafford

CRICKET

Vengsarkar rallies Indians

Delhi (Reuters) - Dilip Vengsarkar, India's new captain, made an unbeaten 74 here yesterday to leave the first Test with West Indies finely balanced. At the close of the second day, during which seven wickets fell, the match was tied at 18 on Wednesday, India, 210 for five in their second innings, led by 158.

They lost two wickets clearing arrears of 52 and, with four men out for 82, were in serious trouble before Vengsarkar showed how to handle the pace bowlers, passing 6,000 runs in Tests when he reached 39.

Vengsarkar, who took over from Kapil Dev as India's captain after the World Cup, has so far hit six boundaries and 200 deliveries and survived two chances on a pitch of uneven bounce. At 23, wicketkeeper Dujain failed to collect a snick off Patterson and, at 47, Vengsarkar escaped again, when Richardson missed him at third slip, off Benjamin.

It was Patterson who was responsible for India's poor

start, accounting for Srikanth and Lamba with successive deliveries with the score at six. The surviving opening batsman, Arun Lal, then helped his captain add 60 runs for the third wicket before hooking Waish to Benjamin at deep fine leg.

With Patterson next forcing Shastri to edge a catch to Harper, at second slip, the new cap, Sanjay Manjrekar, again had to come in at a difficult time. He was just getting set when he was struck in the face by a short-pitched delivery from Benjamin and retired hurt.

As usual Kapil Dev saw aggression as the best escape route and he and Vengsarkar forced Richardson to break up his cordon of close catchers for the first time. With some thrilling strokes they added 96 runs from 30 deliveries before Kapil was deceived by a Yorker from Benjamin and was bowled for 18. Not surprisingly the pace slackened when More joined Vengsarkar but he saw out the day, while scoring 18.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Bromley revival in full swing

By Paul Newman

The Vauxhall-Opel League, dominated for the last two years by Sutton United, Wycombe Wanderers and Yeovil Town, has some unfamiliar names at the top of its premier division this season. Windsor and Eton lead the table, but in an ever healthier position are Bromley, in second place, two points behind and with four games in hand.

Since the 1960s, honours have been few and far between for Bromley, who were one of the country's leading amateur clubs. Three times winners of the FA Amateur Cup, they were also champions of the Isthmian League (now the Vauxhall-Opel League) in 1961.

The man behind this season's revival is Trevor Ford, who came to the club as a player before being appointed manager nearly two years ago. His assistant is Colin Powell, the former Charlton Athletic winger, and

his player-coach is Peter Shaw, whose career as a professional he played for Charlton, Exeter City and Gillingham - was ended by injury. Shaw and Paul Edwards, the club captain, are the cornerstones of a defence which has conceded only seven goals in 13 league matches this season.

The midfield is built around three players who began their careers with Gillingham, Graham Brenton, Alan Scotting and Ian Young. The leading scorer, with 14 goals, is Ronnie Murrook, who is in his second spell at the club. He has been joined in attack this season by Laurie McMenemy's son, Paul, who chose Bromley from among several offers after being released by West Ham United.

John Cooper, the Bromley secretary, believes that the fact that most of the players live locally has been an important factor. "All but two of the side live within a few miles of the

ground," he said. "The team spirit is excellent because they all feel this is their own local club that they're playing for."

Attendances this season have frequently topped 500 and the highest of 683 could be bettered tomorrow, when Farnborough Town are the visitors. Bromley have a large catchment area and Cooper believes that support would increase dramatically in the GM Vauxhall Conference. The club wants to join the Conference and believes there would be little problem meeting ground grading requirements.

Plans for the future are built around turning the club into a limited company, which should help clear an overdraft of £20,000. One stipulation that the club plans to make is that no one will be allowed to hold more than 30 per cent of the shares. Mick Taylor, the former Barrow and Workington Town manager, has taken charge of another Northern Premier League club, Southport, after the resignation of Bryan Griffiths.

A rescue plan for Trowbridge Town, of the Beazer Home, has been approved at an extraordinary general meeting of the club's shareholders. Beazer Homes, a building company, is to give the club £100,000 to buy back the ground from its landlords and pay off debts totalling £35,000. In return, the company will have an option to develop the ground for housing and relocate the club.

MOTOR SPORT

Contract is duly delivered

By John Blunsden

Jonathan Palmer's contract with the Tyrrell Racing Organisation has been renewed for the 1988 FIA Formula One world championship season, but it will be several weeks before he knows who will be his driving partner in the two-car team. The position of Philippe Streiff, the other team Tyrrell driver during the season just ended, is likely to be influenced by the decision of Data General, the Paris-based computer company, whether or not to renew his team sponsorship, and, if so, at what level.

Having won the FIA Jim Clark Cup this year (in effect the world championship for drivers of 3½-litre cars) by scoring seven class wins, four second places and two thirds in his Courage Tyrrell DC016, Palmer, aged 31, had made himself a strong contender for a 1988 contract even before the final race at Adelaide, during which he produced the outstanding performance of his highly successful year.

"Jonathan Palmer has fulfilled all our expectations this season," Ken Tyrrell said. "His drive in Australia, from last to fourth place following a collision which damaged his rear suspension and a tyre, and obliged him to make an unplanned pit stop, was exceptional. We are delighted he will be with us for what we expect to be a highly competitive season in 1988."

The disqualification of Eklund means that Jimmy McRae, of Scotland, in the Ford Sierra, moves up to third. David Uellwell, of Wales, ironically in another Audi Quattro, is promoted to sixth.

The engine for Eklund's car was prepared by a specialist

Eklund expelled for illegal valves

By Andrew Longmore

company in Ingolstadt, home of Audi Volkswagen. "The engine came straight from the factory," Eklund's co-driver, Dave Whitlock, said. Whitlock, who gave up helping to run the rally to resume his partnership with the Swede, added: "We did not touch it and knew very little about it; we are not engineers."

The team's appeal will be heard as soon as possible by representatives of the RAC Motor Sports Association and FISA, the governing body of motor racing, but a date has not yet been fixed. If their decision is not accepted the team can appeal to FISA directly, which would mean that the confirmed competitor of Eklund's would be known until the new year.

Under FISA rules, which are very strict for every world championship rally - and often class winners too - are subjected to routine examination by stewards.

The cars are also scrutinized before the event but only for outward safety and legality, not to check engine specifications. There is no suggestion that a competitor of Eklund's experience or standing would deliberately flout the laws but, if the measurements by the RAC stewards are found to be correct, there seems little chance that the appeal will succeed. Even so, minute a difference as 0.4mm could add an extra 10bhp to a car's performance.

Another club severely hit by Oldham, who have an extremely difficult match at Warrington. They will have to play the game without their speedy international centre, Des Foy, who received a three-match suspension.

► Two first division captains have been transferred to their own requests. Swinton loan forward and captain, Les Holliday, aged 25, has been listed at a club record fee of £90,000 while Leigh have

BOBSLEIGHING

Two men overboard

By Chris Moore

Igls and Cervinia, plus the European Championships in Sarajevo. After the first two rounds Phipps, who did not compete at Altenberg, is in third place with only four points. Mark Tom leads the way with 11, with Tom De La Hunty on six.

Though Phipps has plenty of time yet to get his act together, he was so disillusioned with his performance at Winterberg last week that he has dropped two of his four-man crew and has pulled out of next week's trip to Calgary for official pre-Olympic training.

To determine who qualifies, Mo Hammond, the team manager, has devised a selection process based on performances in five competitions - the Foster's World Cup Series events at Altenberg, Winterberg,

There are two indoor events tonight and tomorrow at Crystal Palace: the Home Countries women's indoor championship and the Hockey Field tournament for schools. Wales and Ireland start the ball rolling in the main event at 6.30 p.m. and England v Scotland follows.

The Welsh team has three new caps. Jane Ludgrove, Carol Donovan, and Rebecca Nairne, of Clifton. Wales will use the tournament as a trial for their European qualifying round in Amiens on December 5 and 6.

England have an experienced side, although Karen Brown and Mary Cheetham have been drafted to Great Britain training, and are replaced by Claire Liddell and Janette Britton.

England are preparing to meet West Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Austria in their European qualifying tournament at Bad Neuenahr.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Southern pioneers are poor cousins

By Keith Macklin

The amateur game is booming in Britain, yet many of the managers and teams pioneering the expansion feel their enthusiasm is being tempered by isolation. Typical of this mood are the players at Cambridge University, who burst with energy and ambition yet believe they are marooned in a wilderness of apathy from the game's northern heartlands.

Cambridge gave a superb open exhibition to beat Oxford University at Headingley earlier this year and their next opponents were former rugby union Blues.

James Woodward, the captain, hails from that hotbed of the game, Warrington, and his father is a devout supporter of Leigh, taking Jamie to Hinton Park for every home game. Now he is outspoken about the feelings of players in a "foreign" rugby environment.

"We receive a grant of £300 from the University authorities. We are grateful, although this sum barely covers the expenses of a couple of trips to play universities or college teams. The north," he said, "we feel that no matter how well we play, or how far we are prepared to travel, we are less important than teams playing in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria. Rightly or wrongly, the emphasis seems on the recruitment and development of the traditional areas."

"Yet there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of northern exiles in the Midlands and south who long to attach themselves to a rugby league club, and are unable to find one. Or, if they create a club, they find it too big a struggle to survive."

Mike Penistone, who grew up in Yorkshire, now travels more than 200 miles each week to help organize the Cambridge squad. He recently staged a lecture after visiting Maurice Bamford, the former Great Britain coach, and Peter Corcoran, the full-time Australian coaching specialist.

He acknowledges that both the Rugby League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association wish to see the game flourish in the south, but thinks, "enough time, money or effort is spent to assist the pioneer outposts. I feel that more could be done to help teams like the Cambridge and Oxford, and the many Midlands amateur clubs. They have had a long time as organizers, with at least a small budget for publicity and development, new teams would come forward, and existing teams would grow in membership."

This point was illustrated at one of the Cambridge lectures, where a group of students from a newly-formed club at Peterborough, pleaded for both fixtures and publicity to bolster their membership.

Bans make Salford's job harder

Personal appearances before the disciplinary committee in Leeds yesterday failed to save four players from suspension (Keith Macklin writes). All must now miss their clubs' John Player Special Trophy quarter-finals this weekend.

The worst-hit club are Salford, who have a hard enough time to the home of the Wigan, before a 5,000-a-ticket crowd. They will be without Peter Glynn and Dave Ballough, who were suspended for two and four matches respectively by the committee.

Lee Crooks, the Leeds and Great Britain front row forward, took a 15-minute suspension for a foul on a referee during the match - Chairman's XIII v Auckland - during which he was sent off. He had hoped that the committee would view the game and decide in his favour, but he was suspended for two weeks, and missed the John Player tie at Wigan against Springfield Borough. Leeds are fortunate that they have a strong pool of players, and that they are facing second division opposition, though Crooks said last night that Borough will play above themselves and are not to be taken lightly.

Another club severely hit by Oldham, who have an extremely difficult match at Warrington. They will have to play the game without their speedy international centre, Des Foy, who received a three-match suspension.

► Two first division captains have been transferred to their own requests. Swinton loan forward and captain, Les Holliday, aged 25, has been listed at a club record fee of £90,000 while Leigh have

HOCKEY

Double event indoors

By Joyce Whitehead

West Germany, on December 18 and 19. To mark the 75th anniversary of Hockey Field magazine, Tony (Essen) Hayes, (Kent), Armthorpe (Yorkshire) and King Edward VII Upper (Leicestershire) will take part in a schools tournament.

► Three Britain players, Barbara Hamby, Miss Cheetham and Jane Sixsmith were at the Moors Woods sports centre, Birmingham, yesterday to launch a project for day-time recreation, aimed at returning women and mothers to hockey.

ENGLAND: M. Souvage (Lancashire), G. L. Lister (Sussex), L. Bellingham (Essex), B. Bray (Suffolk), G. Barry, L. Carr, (Lancashire), J. Goss (Essex), M. Roberts (Kent), G. Thompson (Buckinghamshire), J. White (Suffolk), J. Wiles (Sussex), J. Ludgrove (Buckinghamshire), C. Donovan (Sussex), C. Nairne (Clifton), F. McCall (Sussex), R. Nairne (Clifton), A. Richards (Porthcawl), R. Roddick (Porthcawl), K. Thomas (Gwent), S. Thomas (Gwent).

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL

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Maxwell hits out after League refuses backing

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

ROBERT MAXWELL'S STATEMENT

Robert Maxwell has angrily attacked the Football League "mismanagement committee" over their failure to back his proposed £2 million takeover of Watford, Maxwell, whose British Printing and Communications Corporation (BPCC) company planned to buy out the Watford chairman, Elton John, said the League president, Philip Carter's attempts to justify the decision were "as untrue as they are childish, scandalous and slanderous".

In a hard-hitting statement, Maxwell also said that the professional game was dominated by "incompetent, selfish, bungling amateurs", who he wanted to see kicked out. The League's management committee met for four hours yesterday to discuss the takeover. The eight-man committee were unanimous in their decision.

They issued a statement saying they did not think it "desirable for any individual or organization, either directly or through nominees, to be in a position to appear to be in a position to influence the management or administration of more than one club. Therefore, the management committee does not support this transaction."

The statement, an echo of regulation 80, refers to Maxwell's substantial involvement in four clubs. He is the chairman of Derby County, his son, Kevin, is the chairman of Oxford United, and John Holloran, the chief executive of BPCC, is the new chairman of Watford.

Maxwell is also the major shareholder at Reading, the second division club he attempted to merge with Oxford. In effect, he could be said to be in control of almost a sixth of the first division as well as being the strongest voice representing the Full Members.

Maxwell maintains the only reason his company offered to buy Watford was to preserve the club's future but it seems obvious that he does not intend to give up the idea of taking over Watford without a fight.

John has backed Maxwell. In a brief statement to the Football League the Watford chairman said: "I have asked BPCC not to withdraw, which they have agreed to do. I believe the transfer of my shares to BPCC is in the best interests of Watford town and Watford Football Club."

Although the League's management committee has no official power to stop Maxwell, it threw further weight behind its decision by threatening to summon all the League chairmen to an extraordinary general meeting. Maxwell could find himself taking on 89 opponents.

I will carefully study what the Football League Mismanagement Committee has said after I have had an opportunity to consider the reactions of Mr Elton John, the Board of Watford Football Club and its Manager, Mr David Bassett. The Board of BPCC, which will meet tomorrow, will similarly want to consider its next step.

Mr Elton John and I have one paramount objective - to preserve, if possible, the first division status of Watford FC.

BPCC's purpose was to help the club before its lack of financial resources starts an irreversible slide. The Mismanagement Committee's remarks today seem like those of a group of frightened men, who know they are responsible for the parlous state in which British football finds itself but who are reluctant to have their guilt exposed.

They failed to respond to the boogymen menace which emptied so many grounds; they failed to secure the best possible deal with the BBC and ITV companies, thereby depriving the clubs in the lower divisions of badly needed money to ensure their survival; they also failed to secure for the game the kind of monies which the football pools ought to be paying to it.

Mr Carter's attempted justifications for interfering in Watford Football Club's decision are as untrue as they are childish, scandalous and slanderous. Mr Carter's real motivation is that he is scared that his and his friends' cosy little cartel, which has been lorded it over our national game with such damaging consequences, could come to an end.

What we have is a professional game dominated by incompetent, selfish, bungling amateurs and it is time that those who love the sport woke up to the fact and kicked them out.

who could move the goal posts in the power game.

The committee hopes that Maxwell, who bought Watford from John for £2 million, will avoid such a collision by fulfilling his public promise. Last week he stated that "a condition of the agreement is that if the League does not agree wholeheartedly with the deal, then I will walk away."

Carter said: "Our understanding according to Mr Maxwell, from what we have read in the press, is that if he

Road within his expansive empire. The publisher has asked that if he does so, "what good would that do to Watford and to football?"

The committee's answer to his question is that whatever the outcome might be, it is sure to be healthier for the club and particularly for the first division as well as the game itself. Now Maxwell must in turn decide whether he feels it is worth picking up the League's gauntlet.

It was thrown down by Carter, of Everton, Ken Bates, of Chelsea, David Dean, of Arsenal, and Bert McGee, of Sheffield Wednesday, representing the first division. Their colleagues were Jack Dunnett, of North County, Bill Fox, of Blackburn Rovers, Ron Noades, of Crystal Palace, and Ian Stott, of Oldham Athletic.

After Watford had met to discuss the repercussions of the League verdict, John, flanked by Holloran and Eddie Plumley, the Watford chief executive, said: "The board of directors of Watford Football Club is extremely disappointed with the speculation surrounding the management of Dave Bassett. The board has unanimously and solidly reaffirmed Dave Bassett's position as manager of Watford Football Club, a position that has never, and I stress never, been in doubt."

National test
Tokyo (AP) - FC Porto, of Portugal, and Penarol, of Uruguay, will meet in the eighth Toyota Cup game on December 13 to decide the world's top club football team, organizers said yesterday. The annual Europe-South America match is to be played at the 60,000-seat National Stadium.

Butcher in plaster but in demand
By a Special Correspondent

Terry Butcher, with his left leg encased in plaster, has been offered a revised contract by Rangers which could keep him in Glasgow until the end of his playing career.

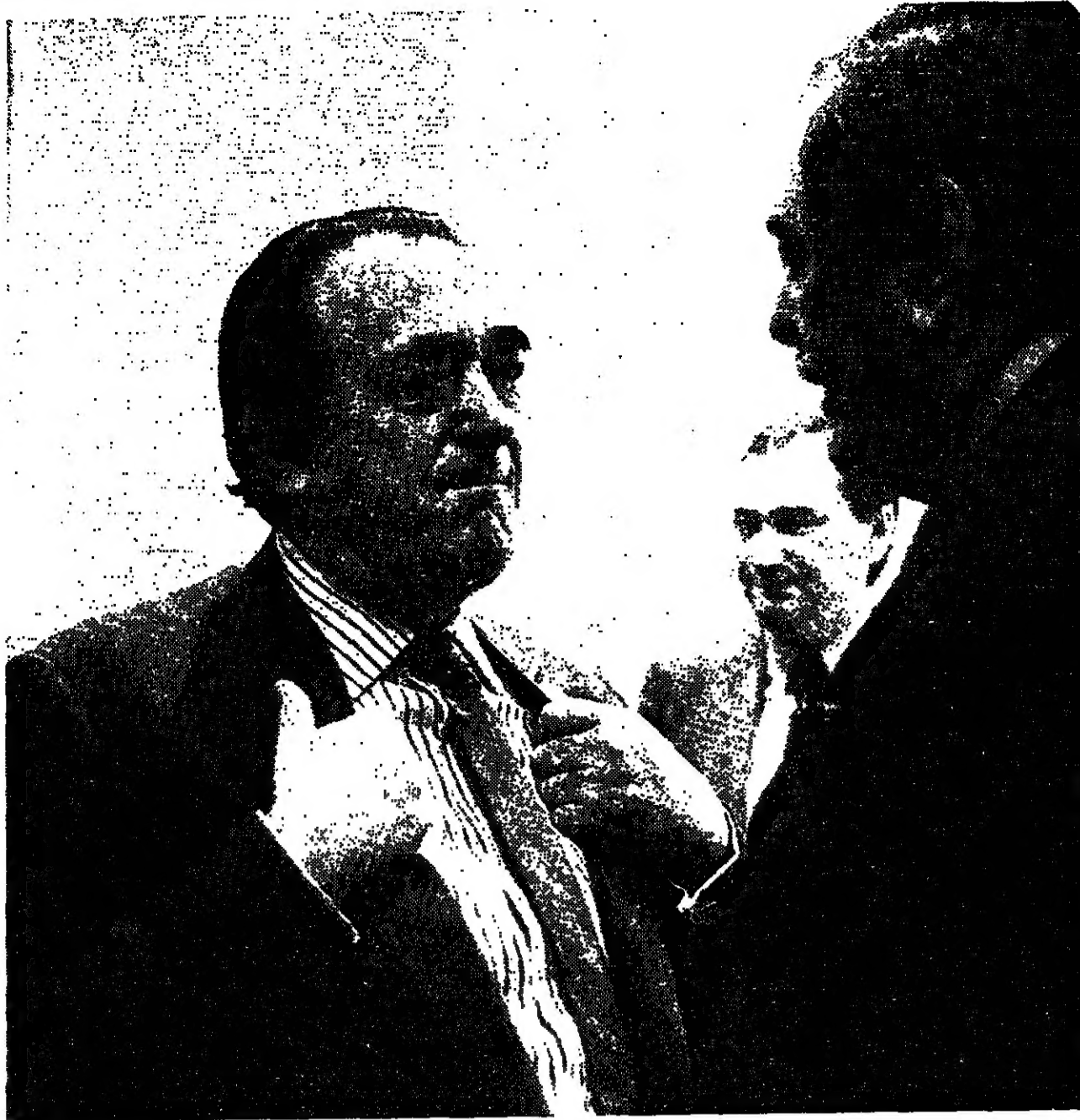
The popular England centre half is currently bound to a four-year contract which expires in the summer of 1990 - by which time he will be 31 - but in the wake of Manchester United's £1 million bid, Rangers are believed to have drafted a further four-year contract valid until 1994.

The Rangers' assistant manager Walter Smith confirmed yesterday: "We had started speaking to Terry about lengthening his contract before he broke his leg, but obviously that set us back a bit. The main thing is we want him to stay here for the remainder of his career - it is as simple as that."

Meanwhile, another subject of Rangers interest is St. Mirren's promising midfielder player-cum-forward, Ian Ferguson, for whom they have made a bid of £500,000. St. Mirren, however, are determined to hold the player to an existing four-year contract, which he signed only a matter of months ago.

On this affair, Smith was more rueful than hopeful. "We have made the bid but, as things stand, the player has been told that he must stay."

Of more immediate concern to both Smith and Graeme Souness, the manager, is the visit of the League leaders, Heart of Midlothian to Ibrox on Saturday. Rangers will again have to do without Souness, whose calf muscle strain will keep him out for at least another week.



Maxwell at a Meucap lunch yesterday before hearing the League's decision

England's slow bowlers unable to match the magic of Qadir

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Lahore

SCOREBOARD FROM LAHORE

England won toss									
ENGLAND First Innings: 175 (Abdul Qadir 9 for 56).									
PAKISTAN									
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Rate	Time	Dismissed	How	By	Score
Mudassar Nazir lbw b Foster	120	1	1	12.0	25	1	lbw	Foster	25
Imran Khan b Embury	35	1	1	11.4	70	1	b	Embury	45
Salim Malik b Embury	0	1	1	0.0	1	1	b	Embury	1
Javed Miandad c Gooch b Cook	65	1	1	17.1	106	1	c	Gooch	73
Imran Khan not out	27	1	1	3.0	102	1	not out		73
Karl Mubanga not out	2	1	1	0.2	22	1	not out		75
Extras (lb 7, nb 4)	28								
Total (4 wickets, 92 overs)	277								

†Ahsan Ali, Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Iqbal Qasim and Tausif Ahmed to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71, 2-71, 3-213, 4-272.
BOWLING: DeFreitas 17-4-32-0 (nb 3); Foster 11-0-31-1 (nb 1); Embury 36-9-89-2; Cook 28-10-81-1.
Umpires: Amrullah Khan and Shakeel Khan.

Of the four wickets which England took during the day, two fell to successive balls in Embury's fifth over. He bowled Ramiz Raja and then Salim Malik, both between bat and pad as they pushed tentatively forward. Four balls later, still in the same over, Miandad could have been caught before he had scored, by Gooch at backward short leg.

For a Tony Lock or an Alan Revill, or a Mickey Stewart for that matter, it would have been a sharp chance, but one they would have been disappointed not to take. Although Gooch covered it as he fell, low to his left, it was just too quick for him. Short leg is not the place for Gooch, and Gunning soon went there; but the horse had bolted by then.

When Miandad was 24 he could have been caught again. French missing him at the wicket off Cook. This time the ball kept a shade low perhaps, but being on the outside of the bat it was perfectly catchable. French, in fact, had a difficult time of it, allowing 16 byes during the morning, all in boundaries. He had trouble

with the off-break turning past the leg stump, as he did, I remember, on another turning pitch against New South Wales in Newcastle a year ago.

Nor did England bowl as tidily as they should have. A sketchy start from Foster and DeFreitas relieved Pakistan of early pressure. And runs came off the spinners at more than two and a half an over without the batsmen taking risks. For an orthodox left-arm spinner, Cook was hit too frequently to leg or past cover point off the back foot. Capel, who does rate as an all-rounder, was not bowled at all, which would have been less curious had Foster and DeFreitas been in better form. There was surely a time in the afternoon, when Cook collared and no third spinner to turn to, when Capel must have been worth an over or two.

But a day of some mediocrity of England was one of great rejoicing for Mudassar, who celebrated his hundredth Test innings by scoring 123. It was his tenth Test hundred, of

which the only one to be made outside Pakistan was against England at Edgbaston in July. His first, against Mike Brearley's side on this same ground 10 years ago, is still the slowest century ever made in first-class cricket. It took nine hours 17 minutes. In the brochure for the next Test match Mudassar was hailed for having achieved "the great and glorious feat of the slowest Test innings ever played." He was only 21 at the time and it was certainly remarkable how he applied himself for so long.

Yesterday was the innings of Mudassar in maturity. His 100 came now in a mere four and a half hours. All told he hit 18 fours and gave no chance, unless England were right in thinking, quite early on, that he had been caught at short leg off bat and pad. They undoubtedly thought Ijaz had been immediately after tea, but it was more for warning both Cook and Embury about their follow-throughs that the umpires caught the eye.

England conceded 33 runs in the first five overs, bowled by Foster and DeFreitas. Hooks, one for six by Ramiz off Foster, and square cuts told of the length they bowled, though when Foster did pitch around the right spot he found for an over or two both bounce and movement. In two overs DeFreitas went for 17 and by the time Embury and Cook were bowling together, after 45 minutes, 43 runs had been scored, 34 of them by Ramiz.

Had Miandad gone before he had scored Pakistan would have been 71 for three with the youngsters to come, faced by a real test of nerve. Instead, by the time another wicket fell Mudassar and Miandad had added 142 and it was nearly tea time.

Miandad's wicket came in the end as something of a windfall. Driving at Cook without quite being at the pitch of the ball, he was caught at deep mid off. Gooch taking the ball two-handed above his head. To be fair to Cook, it was quite a feather in his cap to have the little wizard caught, having already had him dropped.

Mudassar departed eventually to the new ball, taken 40 minutes from the end. Left to see out the day with Asif Mujtaba, Ijaz then showed why Imran sees such promise in him. Having hit Cook back over his head for six, he played Foster and DeFreitas with composure when a couple more wickets would have kept England in the game. As it is, it is hard now to see them saving it.

Jacklin accepts the captaincy again

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Tony Jacklin yesterday agreed to serve a fourth term as captain of the European Ryder Cup golf team. He will remain at the helm when the biennial encounter, sponsored by Johnnie Walker, unfolds at The Belfry in 1989, when he will attempt to steer Europe to a third successive victory against the United States.

"I was prepared to step down, but it seems that nobody was too excited about taking over," Jacklin said. "The Ryder Cup has become a

crusader for the European Tour. Right now everything is looking rosy, but we can't sit back. We must not become complacent and screw up all we've achieved."

Peter Alliss, Tommy Horton and Bernard Gallacher would have been among those on a short-list to replace Jacklin had the former British and US Open champion opted out. Initially he insisted that he would resign but he agreed to continue when the Ryder Cup Committee met in London yesterday.

The news will delight the

players. Severiano Ballesteros and Ian Woosnam had vigorously campaigned for Jacklin to carry on. Jacklin, too, was swayed by the knowledge that the likes of Nick Faldo, Sandy Lyle, Ballesteros and Woosnam will almost certainly retain their places. "The average age this year was 29, and so I would expect most of the players to form the backbone of my 1989 team," Jacklin said. "It's important to have players in the team whose personality you know."

He hinted, however, that he might seek a minor change in

the selection procedure - nine players automatically qualified for this year's match with Jacklin picking the other three - and that he might be prepared to remain in the role in 1990.

"I realize that right now it would be a tough act for somebody to follow," Jacklin added. "I believe it's my duty to continue. Where European golf is heading is a heck of a lot more important than Tony Jacklin's ego or personal career."

Jacklin, who assumed the captaincy in 1983 when Europe lost narrowly to Florida, was in London yesterday for the launch of BBC Enterprises' *Victory in America* (£9.99). It is an excellent 90-minute video highlighting this year's historic first-ever win on American soil which followed Europe's victory at The Belfry in 1985.

Both Jack Nicklaus, the US captain, and Jacklin, agreed that Europe's 15-13 win at Muirfield Village, Columbus, Ohio, might change the course of world golf. "I wrote afterwards to Ford Hardin, the US Masters chairman, and asked if he would invite all 12 of the European team to play at Augusta next year," said Jacklin. "He has written back to say that six have qualified and that the selection procedure will be reviewed. That is a step in the right direction."

Jacklin and the European Ryder Cup team also learned yesterday that they had won the Association of Golf Writers' Trophy.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Becker out to Swede

Friedrichshafen, West Germany (Reuters) - Boris Becker, three times winner of the Young Masters tennis tournament in its inaugural year, crashed out 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 yesterday to Magnus Gustafsson, of Sweden.

The exhausted and lethargic former Wimbledon champion, aged 20 last Sunday, said: "I'm taking medicine for my throat, carache, cold and knee pains."

On target

Dushanbe, Soviet Tadzhikistan (AFP) - Elena Marfel broke the women's archery world record for 70 metres when she scored 330 points from 36 arrows in the Soviet Cup here yesterday.

Heavy penalty

Auch (AFP) - Albert Ferrasse, the French rugby union federation president, still angry over the death of a player in a junior club match in Marseille two weeks ago, has called for a minimum one year ban on any player guilty of kicking or raking a player on the ground.

Cheating row

Rome (Reuters) - The Italian Athletics Federation (FIDAL) said yesterday it would take legal action against Alessandro Donati, the national sprint coach, who claimed Giovanni Evangelisti, the Italian, won the long jump bronze medal from Larry Myricks, the American, at the world championships here in September through an error arranged in advance.

Mass changes

Charlie Faulkner, the former Welsh international prop forward, and Roy Duggan have both resigned as Newport rugby union club's coaches after committee members said they did not like their forward-oriented style of play. Roger Powell, the captain, has also decided to end his playing days.

Faulkner: leaving Newport

Faulkner: leaving Newport

Mass changes

Mass changes

On target

On target

Heavy penalty

Heavy penalty

Cheating row

Cheating row

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